■ METRO / A20
Truck driver did it, says cabbie who saw Razon son's fatal car accident

■ BUSINESS / B1
Budget deficit kept below P48-B ceiling despite overspending

■ ACROSS / A15
Militant Luisita union leader killed, 14th victim in hacienda

■ NEWS / A2
Liberal Party, Drilon faction, expels Atienza, Defensor

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, March 18, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 100 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Palace admits PP 1017 pulled GMA ratings down

MALACAÑANG CONCEDED YESTERDAY THAT President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency might have made her more unpopular with a growing number of Filipinos, as a nationwide survey had shown.

Speaking in a radio interview, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye quoted Felipe Miranda, head of the survey firm Pulse Asia Inc., as saying that if it were not for Presidential Proclamation No. 1017,

PALACE/ A10

Slain Pasig trader's kin: He had no foes but Chavit

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Luige A. del Puerto

SAYING HE HAD NO ENEMIES EXCEPT ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the family of slain businessman Leonardo Umale yesterday offered a P10-million reward for anyone with information about the four gunmen linked to the murder and their mastermind.

But police said they could not invite Singson

SLAIN/ A6

Baywalking Dinky nabbed

Anti-GMA group strolls by Manila Bay in 'Out Now' black T-shirts

By Tina G. Santos

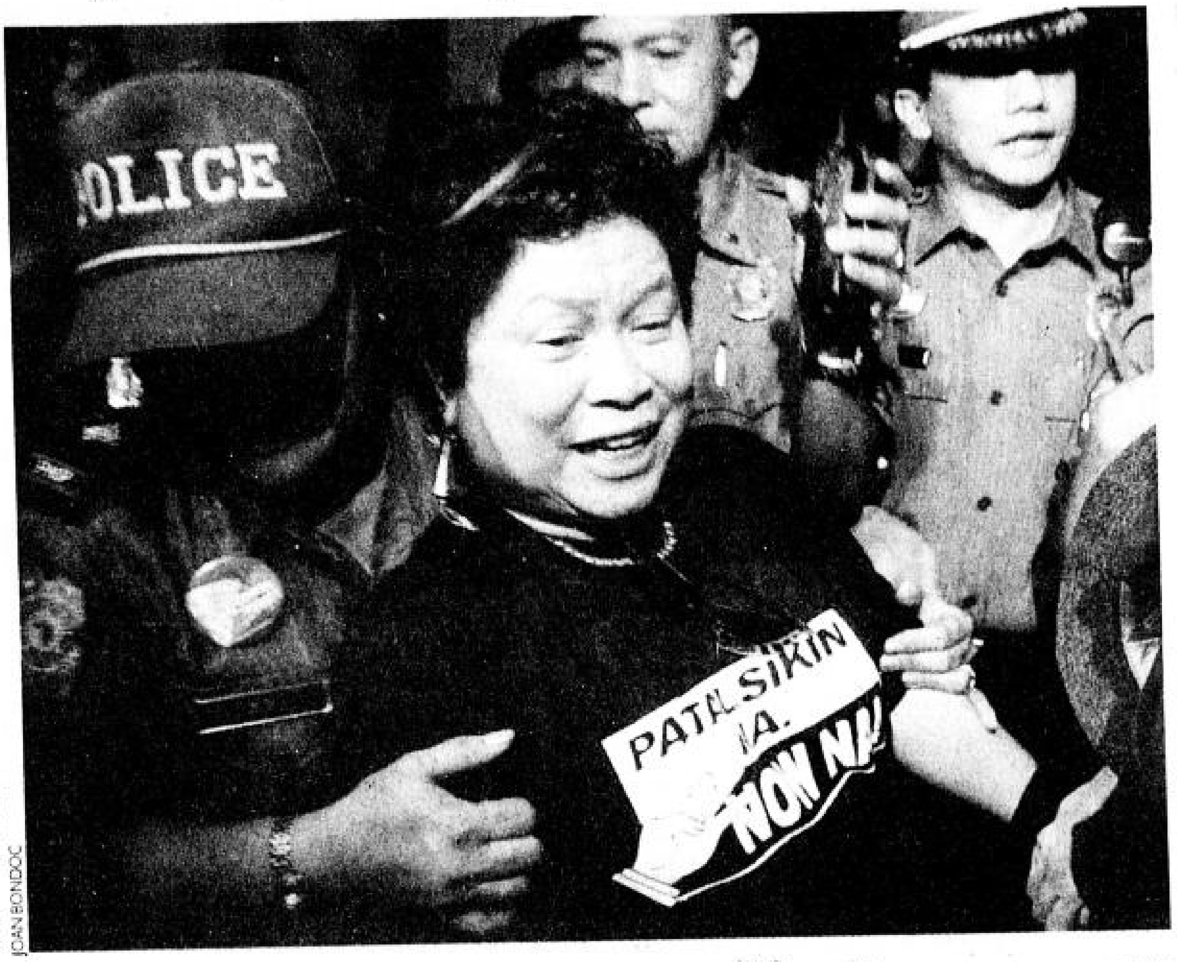
THEY WERE ONLY AT Roxas Boulevard for a walk, so they claimed.

But police wondered why they were all wearing black T-shirts and immediately pounced on them.

Members of the Western Police District arrested early evening yesterday former Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman for alleged illegal assembly.

Soliman was arrested together with Vicente Romano, lead convenor of the Black-and-White Movement (BWM), a group seeking President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation.

BAYWALKING/ A4



JOAN BONDOC

ARRESTED FOR BAYWALKING: Western Police District cops pounce on Dinky Soliman.

FVR to Gringo: Stop dreaming, surrender

By Cynthia D. Balana

IF FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL Ramos has any advice to former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, it is for him to stop dreaming.

"They always said 'Our Dreams Will Never Die.' You know, that is really a fantasy. It's not invented by him. That is Diana Ross," Ramos said, referring to the American iconic pop singer of the Supremes.

"Why pursue something that's really not of your own invention? Of course, to romanticists, idealists, that is a very valid ambition," Ramos added. He was alluding to Honasan's long-running campaign for political reforms and change.

Ramos was Armed Forces Chief of Staff when troops captured the then also fugitive Honasan while the charismatic officer was reportedly hiding under a bed in Valle Verde, Pasig in 1987.

Also linked to coup attempts, Honasan escaped months later from a Navy ship where he was being held, with all his guards. He resurfaced in 1992 after four years in hiding.

Speaking to reporters, Ramos called on Honasan to come out and face the rebellion charges against him, saying the former senator was too well known a public figure to go on hiding and no longer the dashing Gringo that he used to be.

Ramos issued the appeal after the police said that it had put up a P5 million bounty for Honasan's capture so he could answer coup charges for his alleged involvement in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

"It's really so degrading for him

FVR TO GRINGO/ A4

LYN RILLON

FULL OF GRACE: President Arroyo poses with Bishop Arturo Bastes (left), Msgr. Augusto Laban (right) after Mass celebrating the 50th sacerdotal anniversary of the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Sorsogon City. Bastes is the fourth bishop she visited in the last seven days.

Biazon: Be careful in handling Honasan

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and TJ Burgonio

SAYING FORMER SEN. GREGORIO Honasan was no ordinary man, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon warned the administration to exercise care in handling its case against the former colonel it had accused of involvement in a coup plot.

"They should be careful with him. Gringo is not an ordinary citizen. He used to be a senator. He has a following in and out of the military," Biazon said during a dinner on Thursday with the Inquirer staff.

"What they are doing could temporarily suppress the perceived threat coming from Gringo's direction, but it can also be double-bladed."

Biazon said a mishandling of Honasan's case could fuel more restiveness among his supporters.

"It can arouse feelings from the

BIAZON/ A8

AFP spokesman gagged after 'nation will collapse' quote

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SPOKESPERSON CLAMS UP.

Ignoring furious protests among lawmakers, the Armed Forces did not take back the claims made by its public information office (PIO) chief, Col. Tristan Kison, that the military played a make-or-break role in President Macapagal-Arroyo's political survival.

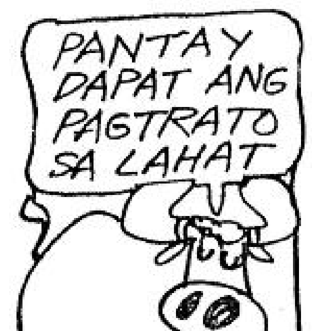
Without bothering to explain himself, Kison would no longer take calls from reporters after his statement Wednesday that the "the nation will collapse" if the military gave in to pressure to withdraw support from the President.

The statement was roundly rebuked by lawmakers but Kison refused to take it back.

Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado, an Air Force general who was castigated by a military court for preempting its ruling in the Oakwood mutiny case, was suddenly reappointed as AFP spokesperson.

Honrado was replaced as spokesperson in November last year by then AFP Deputy Chief of

NATION/ A8


PANTAY DAPAT ANG PAGTRATO SA LAHAT

'We defend democracy, but we don't practice it'

By Michael Lim Ubac

"WE DEFEND DEMOCRACY BUT we don't practice democracy in the military," according to Navy Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga.

Members of the military should not speak their minds in public, Mayuga said, defending the Armed Forces that insisted it was illegal for the Marines to join anti-Arroyo protesters at the Edsa rallies on Feb. 24.

Speaking to reporters during a break in the budget deliberations of the Department of National Defense (DND) in the House of

WE DEFEND/ A10

Fil-American doctor keeps coming home to give back

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR MANY, IT WAS THEIR FIRST TIME TO see a doctor.

They came in droves from all over Negros—some in bare feet—packing the gymnasium, the usual site of the medical mission, recalled Dr. Leo Gangoy, a family medicine specialist from Virginia and a graduate of the Southwestern University College of Medicine in Cebu.

In three days, Gangoy and his wife Carolina, a nurse, saw a whopping 3,000 patients in a small town in Negros last January. They ran out of supplies which they had brought from the United States and had to make local purchases.

Gangoy went to the United States long before his compatriots began flocking abroad to work as doctors, nurses and caregivers. But unlike many of them, this retired US Navy captain would return home with a team of Filipino and American doctors for a weeklong medical mission. He has been doing so for the past 20 years.

Every year since the 1980s, the medical mission would fly in and visit the poorest barangays in the country. It was the team's way of giving back the blessings they were given, Gangoy said.

"The poor people here cannot be compared elsewhere—they're really poor," he said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Through the years, Gangoy has witnessed the worsening health condition in the Philippines, especially in the wake of the massive exodus of doctors and nurses.

FIL-AMERICAN/ A6

SOUND OF MUSIC: PDI founding chair Eggie Apostol, with writer Gilda Cordero-Fernando and Billy Lacaba, kicks back her shoes to enjoy "Never Again Concert for Freedom" on Thursday at the Sunken Garden of the UP Diliman. The country's leading bands and singers like Noel Cabangon (left) perform for free against the backdrop of protest vs President Arroyo. RAFFY LERMA

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/17/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

GMA appoints Nachura to replace Benipayo as SolGen

By Christine Avendaño

NACHURA: It's hard to say 'no' to the President.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday appointed her chief legal counsel, Antonio Eduardo Nachura, as Solicitor General, replacing Alfredo Benipayo who quit early this week after defending the President's state of emergency declaration at the Supreme Court.

Nachura, 64, said in a phone interview that he had accepted the appointment.

He said the President had called him last Thursday to offer him the post. He said he told the President he had "certain reservations" about accepting as he was afraid he would "not be up for the job."

But the President was insistent, telling him that majority of the Cabinet had recommended him.

"It's hard to say 'no' to the President," and he eventually accepted, said Nachura.

"The President is convinced that I can do it and I hope I can meet her expectations," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Nachura will assume his new position "between March 23 and April 1 to allow for smooth transition and turnover."

Bunye, who announced the appointment to reporters, said "Nachura has a wide knowledge and experience in the field of law, and we believe he would be able to do his job well."

Nachura, an expert on constitutional law, said he would no longer need to defend the emergency declaration after the Supreme Court had heard the oral arguments.

Nachura has barely warmed his seat as Ms Arroyo's chief legal counsel, having assumed the post only last Feb.16.

Bunye said there was a short list of candidates being considered to replace Nachura as presidential legal counsel.

A former member of the House of Representatives from Samar, Nachura was one of the prosecutors in the impeachment trial of deposed President Estrada in 2000.

Benipayo resigned last week without explanation, just days after hearings opened at the Supreme Court to hear seven petitions questioning Ms Arroyo's emergency decree.

He declined to comment on the reasons for his resignation, but Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Benipayo had told him he wanted to go back to private life and resume his law practice.

An unnamed official at the Solicitor General's office said Benipayo had been forced out because Malacañang was unhappy with his defense of Proclamation 1017 at the high court.

During oral arguments on March 7, Benipayo acknowledged that the implementation of 1017 may have been flawed.

With AP

TIT FOR TAT

Drilon LP faction cuts Atienza-Defensor wing

By TJ Burgonio

GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE – A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.

After being ousted early this month during a "rump session" called by the Liberal Party faction of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, it was the turn of Senate President Franklin Drilon, also LP president, yesterday to give Atienza a dose of his own medicine.

WHO SAID politics is addition? Members of the Liberal Party belonging to the faction of Senate President Franklin Drilon (center) raise their hands during its general assembly Friday in Gen. Trias, Cavite. With Drilon are, from left, former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, Rep. Jun Abaya, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi and Rep. Noynoy Aquino.

ROGER MARGALLO

At LP's general assembly held here, Drilon announced the ouster of Atienza, Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor and three others from the party.

Drilon said the five party members allied with President Macapagal-Arroyo were "deemed resigned."

"Because of the gross violation and disregard of the Constitution of the LP by their holding of the rump session on March 2, it is with regret [that I announce this]," Drilon said before a mammoth crowd of party stalwarts, leaders and their supporters at the Gen. Trias convention and cultural center.

"We have to do this in order to strengthen the party," he added.

Apart from Atienza and Defensor, also expelled from the party were Antique Gov. Sally Perez, Northern Samar Rep. Harlin Cast-Abayon and Batangas Gov. Armand Sanchez, said Drilon.

At the general assembly, Drilon announced that Atienza was replaced as party chair by Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan; and Perez as vice president for the Visayas by Capiz Gov. Vic Bermejo.

The announcement came two weeks after Atienza's LP faction called a convention on March 2 at the Manila Hotel that was turned into an election of new LP officers. Drilon, who was "ousted" in the election, petitioned the Commission on Elections to declare this illegal.

Party chair emeritus Jovito Salonga tried to broker talks between the two factions, but this fell through after Defensor voiced opposition to any mediation.

Other new LP officers elected yesterday were Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, vice chair; Sen. Manuel Roxas II, executive vice president; former DepEd Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad, vice president for policy, platform and advocacy; and Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta, secretary general.

The decision to expel Atienza's group was based on a resolution drafted by the party's National Political Council, while the designation of a new set of officers was based on party consensus, according to Drilon.

"Inyo ang Manila City Hall, amin ang Cavite," a fired-up Drilon said at one point of his speech, virtually turning the party gathering into a campaign rally.

"I accept the challenge of Defensor to hold new elections provided that the President submit herself to an election in this country. Only this way can we show the true sentiments of the people," he added, eliciting cheers and applause.

"These (snap elections) should be held as soon as possible," he later said in a briefing.

Drilon, together with Pangilinan, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and other party members, on July 8 called for the resignation of Ms Arroyo amid charges that she stole the presidency in the May 2004 elections.

Atienza and some party members distanced themselves from Drilon's group and threw their support behind the beleaguered President, virtually causing a split in the 60-year-old party.

Reached for comment, Atienza merely laughed off Drilon's pronouncements of his expulsion from the party.

"The minority cannot oust the majority, that is not democracy. Leadership cannot be dictated by the minority," said Atienza.

Atienza stood pat in the legality of the March 2 convention, saying majority of the LP members "were" present during the event.

With a report from Tina G. Santos

AFP's 'official version' out soon

By Nikko Dizon and Dona Pazzibugan

SENGA: Angry over 'speculative stories'

PDI PHOTO

ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. GENEROSO Senga is set to issue an "official version" of the events that transpired within the military leadership on Feb. 23 to 24 when a plan by top-ranking officers to withdraw from the military chain of command was thwarted, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

"He will be the one to issue the official version soon to once and for all kill speculative stories that have been coming out," said a military source who requested anonymity.

Senga's statement would come complete with a timeline of the events of those two days.

According to the source, the decision to come out with an official version was decided after Senga met this week with the commanders of the major services – Army Chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Air Force Commanding General Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes and Navy Chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga.

"They all decided that the official version would come from him (Senga). The chief of staff is angry because of all the hearsay," the source said.

The source quoted one of the generals as saying: "Who can best speak accurately about what happened [at the Feb. 23 meeting] but the people themselves who were there?"

According to a published version of the events from the alleged coup plotters, Senga had allegedly agreed in principle to join the planned withdrawal of support on Feb. 24 by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin. However, he reportedly changed his mind at the last minute.

Senga has repeatedly denied the accusation.

According to the source, the only ones present at the Feb. 23 meeting that was called by Senga were Esperon, Reyes, Mayuga, AFP deputy chief of staff Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, Lim and Querubin.

The source obtained his information directly from one of those present at the Feb. 23 meeting, which was held at the gazebo behind Senga's official residence at the AFP's Camp Aguinaldo headquarters.

The first to arrive at the meeting was Reyes, followed by Esperon and Maclang.

Mayuga, who came late because he had a meeting with an Indonesian Navy official, arrived with Miranda.

Then Lim and Querubin were called in.

Senga and the three generals grilled Lim and Querubin on their plan to join the anti-Arroyo groups in a rally set for the following day, Feb. 24, and declare their withdrawal of support, the source said.

"They asked Lim and Querubin many questions," the source said.

Senga appeared to be "on top of the situation," the source said.

"One of the generals quoted him as telling Lim and Querubin something like, 'You can't expect me to do something unconstitutional,'" the source said.

Meanwhile, the Army said it has completed the "initial phase" of its investigation of 53 officers and soldiers implicated in the foiled coup plot, beginning with Lim, the dismissed commander of the elite First Scout Rangers Regiment.

But indicating that the investigation was wider than initially believed, Army Inspector General, Maj. Gen. Ferdinand Bocobo said the crackdown on others involved in the plot would continue.

Bocobo said all the officers and soldiers, mostly from the First Scout Rangers Regiment, who were reportedly involved in the plot have been investigated and that he had submitted his report to Esperon.

But the investigation would continue because the investigation yielded new leads, he said.

"We got new names and information," Bocobo said.

He said at least three more junior officers, with ranks ranging from captain to lieutenant, would be questioned after they were implicated by "a couple of officers" during the interrogation.

"Normally they would not want to incriminate themselves... but we have other sources to prove the involvement of these officers," Bocobo said.

Bocobo would not reveal what his recommendations were.

Aside from Lim, three other officers of the First Scout Rangers Regiment were identified to be among those being investigated in connection with the Feb. 24 plot.

They are the regiment's chief of staff Lt. Col. Nestor Flordeliza, ex-operations chief Maj. Jason Aquino and personnel chief Capt. Ruben Guinolbay.

Flordeliza and Guinolbay were recently relieved of their posts. Guinolbay was hailed as a hero after he led his troops in a fierce battle with Abu Sayyaf bandits during the June 2001 siege of Lamitan, Basilan.

Esperon said on March 9 that he would announce the names of those who would be tried in a court-martial in "two to three days." But he has not made any announcements.

JOIN THE PUBLIC AUCTION OF

AUCTION IN MALINTA

TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS

Auction Dates:
March 31 - April 3, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

Inspection Dates:
March 23 - 30, 2006
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

1 of 30 Bulldozers
1 of 80 Excavators
MITSUBISHI CAT MS450-8 Excavator
1 of 30 Wheel Loaders
TCM 870-2 Wheel Loader
1 of 15 Motor Graders
CAT 120G Motor Grader
1 of 5 Cranes
KOMATSU LW250M-2 Rough Terrain Crane
1 of 70 Dropside Cargos
ISUZU Forward FRR Alum. Dropside Cargo
ISUZU 10W Self Loader Truck
1 of 70 Dropside Cargos
FUSO 10W Alum. Hi-Side Dropside, 8-Cyl Turbo, & Sep. Wing Van Body
1 of 20 Bus
FUSO X-Ray Medical Bus
1 of 12 Transit Mixers
ISUZU 10W Mixer Truck
1 of 10 Garbage Compactors
ISUZU Forward Garbage Compactor
1 of 30 Ref. Vans
ISUZU 10W Alum. Ref. Van Thermo King Motor
To Manila
To Baguio
To Mc Arthur Hi-way
NORTH Expressway
EAST SERVICE ROAD
Valenzuela Exit
Lawang Bato Temporary Exit
Meycauayan Exit
ROYAL MALL
AUCTION SITE
EVER MEMORIAL GARDEN

For inquiries please call:
(02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-0215/16

Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru:
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. • Tel (02) 858-8888

Email us: info@auctioninmalinta.com • Visit our website: www.auctioninmalinta.com

NBI confirms serving US legal notices to Erap, son

ESTRADA

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation yesterday confirmed that it had served legal notices to deposed President Estrada and his son, San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito, informing them that they had been subjected to electronic surveillance by the United States.

Lawyer Claro de Castro Jr., executive officer of the NBI Interpol, said he personally served the "legal Notices of Interception of wire and/or electronic communications" to Ejercito last Feb. 27.

De Castro said Ejercito received the legal notice for his father because the latter was recuperating from an eye operation at the time.

In the legal notices, the Estradas were told that father and son had both figured in electronic communications that had been intercepted according to a wiretapping authorization granted by Judge Jose Linares of the US District Court of New Jersey.

Lizares had on Aug. 22, 2005 authorized "the interception of wire and/or electronic communications over the telephone and/or e-mail accounts" of certain specified telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

The electronic surveillance was apparently part of the investigation of a US espionage scandal involving Filipino-American Leandro Aragoncillo, an intelligence analyst of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Michael Ray Aquino, a former police official and aide of Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Aragoncillo and Aquino were arrested on espionage charges in the US last September.

US media reported last October that Aragoncillo had broken into FBI files and pilfered documents in the White House relating to the Philippines. It subsequently came out that Aragoncillo and Aquino had sent these documents to various opposition figures in the Philippines.

Diplomatic sources have told the INQUIRER that the notices were intended to alert the recipients that they could be implicated in the espionage charges and could be brought to the US to face charges.

The notices stated that the authorized interception occurred between Aug. 22 and Sept. 12, 2005, during which "wire and/or electronic communications to or from your telephone and/or communications were intercepted."

According to De Castro, under the requirements of US law, people who had undergone surveillance have to be notified.

Accordingly, the US Embassy sent a diplomatic note to the Department of Foreign Affairs on Feb. 1, asking the DFA for assistance in transmitting the notices to Estrada. The NBI sent the notices to Estrada and Ejercito only on Feb. 27.

An NBI source, who requested anonymity, said the timing was important as the Estradas could have cried political harassment "because the situation at the time was quite volatile."

On Feb. 24, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a week-long state of national emergency following a foiled coup attempt.

De Castro said the NBI served notices only to Estrada and Ejercito.

But Lacson told the INQUIRER that he received a notice from the US last December saying that his "e-mail account" (sic) had been found in a laptop computer seized from Aragoncillo. He said he thought it was "a matter of statutory procedure" and threw it away.

Yesterday, Lacson dismissed suggestions that the notice was in preparation for the filing espionage charges against him.

"I've heard that line before from [Justice Secretary Raul] Gonzalez. That has been floated but it's just speculation," he said.

"It does not make sense. If they were bugging me, why should they notify me?" he said.

He noted that Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano III received a similar legal notice because his e-mail address was found in Aragoncillo's computer, but the congressman was still able to freely travel to the US.

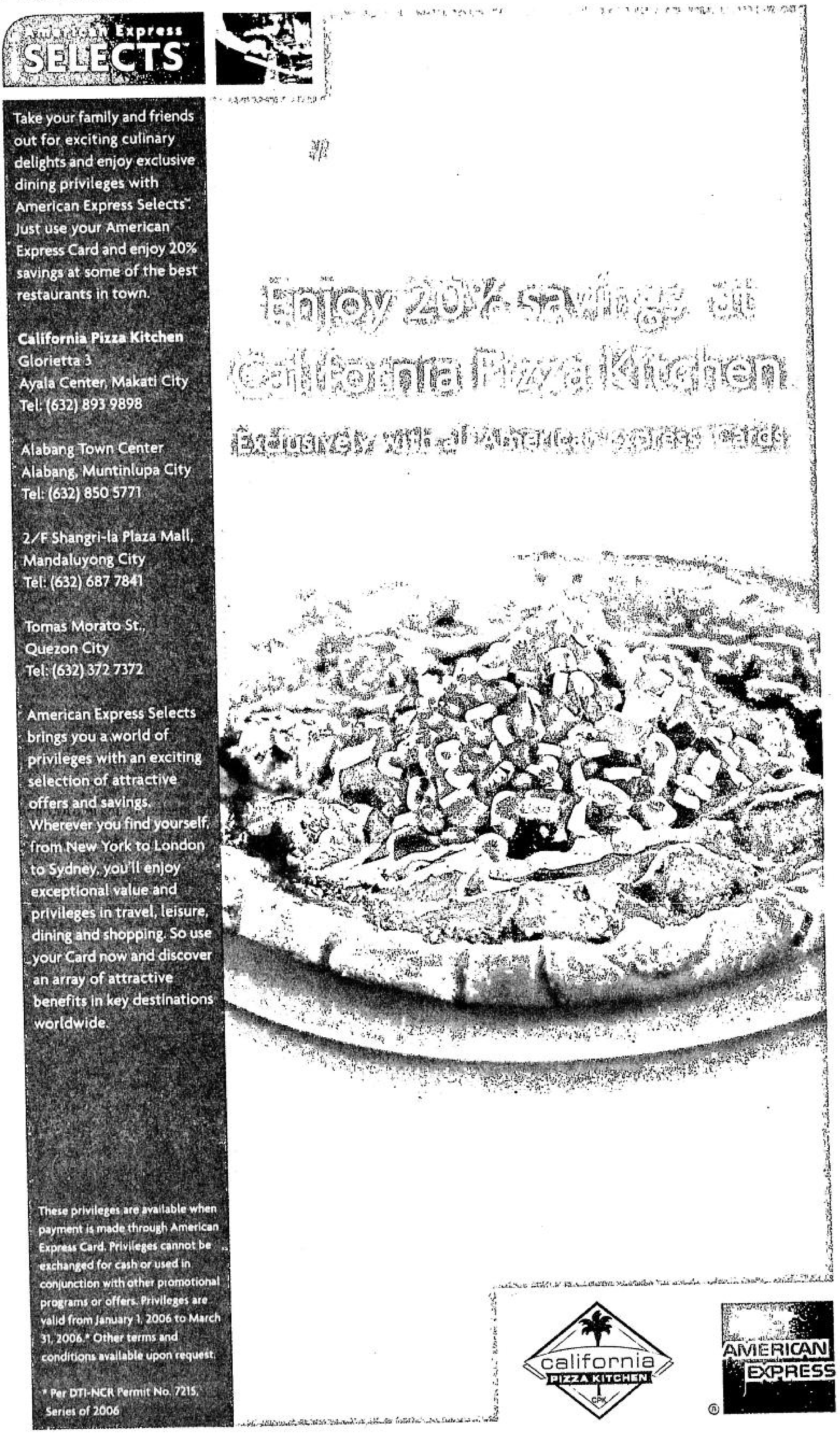
"He went there twice, once to watch Manny Pacquiao and he wasn't held. If this notice is a threat of prosecution, they would have held him there," Lacson said.

Malacañang yesterday left it to the DFA to comment on what action the government would take on the alleged "bugging" by the US of Estrada, Ejercito and Lacson.

"Let's leave it to the DFA, they know what needs to be done under the circumstances," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

He said that if Estrada, Ejercito and Lacson felt aggrieved, they could always go to court.

Bunye said the government had "so many concerns to attend to," primary of which was the economy. *Tina Santos, with reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Christine Avendaño*



American Express SELECTS

Take your family and friends out for exciting culinary delights and enjoy exclusive dining privileges with American Express Selects℠. Just use your American Express Card and enjoy 20% savings at some of the best restaurants in town.

California Pizza Kitchen
Glorietta 3
Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel: (632) 893 9898

Alabang Town Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel: (632) 850 5771

2/F Shangri-la Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (632) 687 7841

Tomas Morato St.,
Quezon City
Tel: (632) 372 7372

American Express Selects brings you a world of privileges with an exciting selection of attractive offers and savings. Wherever you find yourself, from New York to London to Sydney, you'll enjoy exceptional value and privileges in travel, leisure, dining and shopping. So use your Card now and discover an array of attractive benefits in key destinations worldwide.

These privileges are available when payment is made through American Express Card. Privileges cannot be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with other promotional programs or offers. Privileges are valid from January 1, 2006 to March 31, 2006.* Other terms and conditions available upon request.

* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 7215, Series of 2006

Enjoy 20% savings at California Pizza Kitchen

Exclusively with all American Express Cards

Enjoy special offers and savings in key destinations worldwide. Don't forget, American Express Selects℠ travels with you.

Advertising in the Yellow Pages increases your profits because your products are exposed to those who are ready to buy.

DPC YELLOW PAGES

Ibuprofen+ Paracetamol
ALAXAN® FR

Fast Release means quicker relief from body pain.

P7.65

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Canon
Delighting You Always

RED HOT PRE - SUMMER SALE

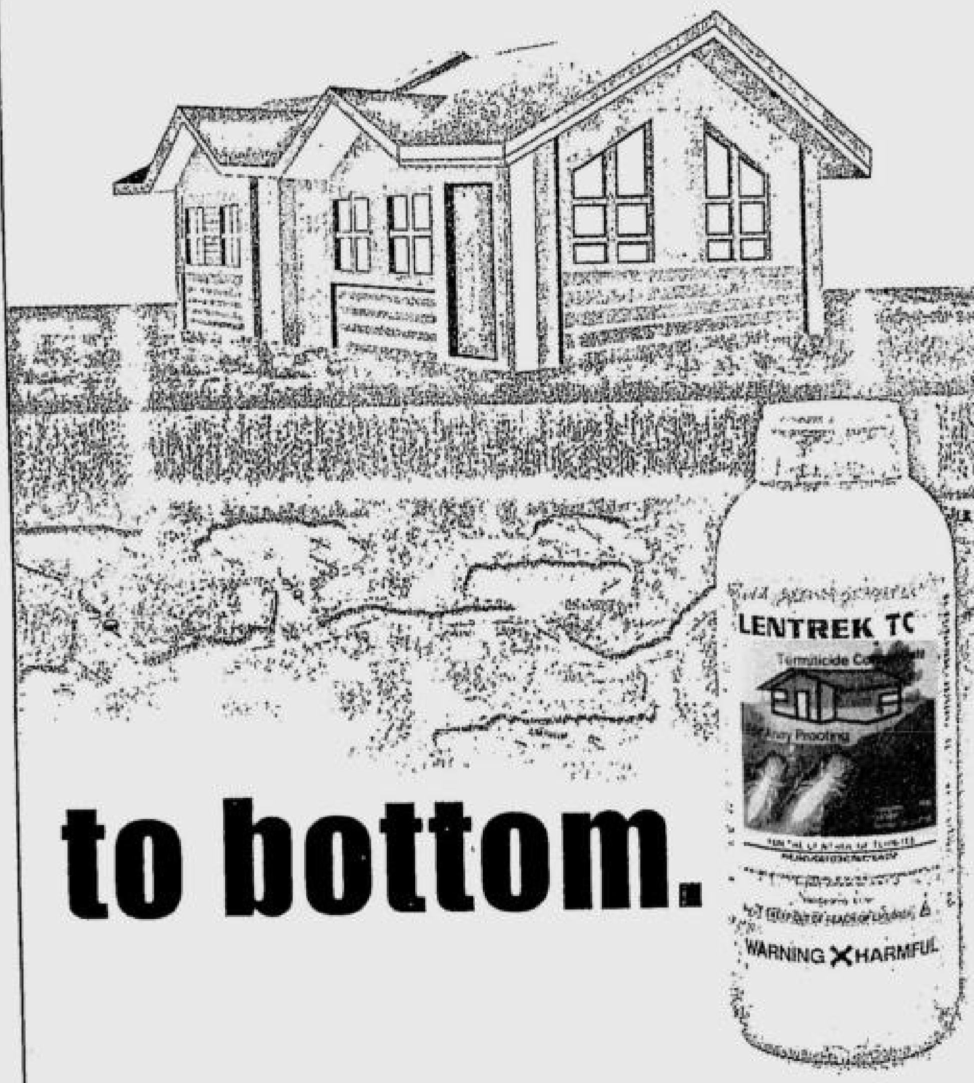
Don't miss your last chance to get these hot digital cameras!

IXUS 750	PowerShot A410	PowerShot S2 IS
7.1 megapixels 3x optical zoom	3.2 megapixels 3.2x optical zoom	5.0 megapixels 12x optical zoom
Before: 32,950 Now only P 29,995	Only P 11,500	Only P 35,950
*Free Camera Case, 128MB Kingston SD card, MP3 Player / Card Reader Combo	*Free Camera Case, 128MB Kingston SD Card, USB SD Card Reader	*Free MP3 Player / Card Reader Combo

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
Promo Period: February 11 to March 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0899. Series of 2006.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City Tels.: 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

Get total termite protection from top...



to bottom.

Solignum and Lentrek* TC.
Your total termite protection.

Two of the most effective anti-anay solutions join forces to protect your home.

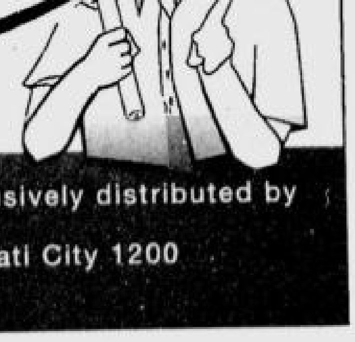
SOLIGNUM Brown and Colourless Wood Preservative protects your home against anay, bukbok and fungi – from roof trusses to wall frames, and down to your flooring.

LENTREK* TC Soil Termiticide forms a strong liquid barrier in the soil so termites can't invade from the ground up.

Get the most effective 2-system anti-anay protection for your home – **SOLIGNUM** and **LENTREK* TC**.

BEWARE OF FAKE LENTREK* TC IN BREAKABLE GLASS BOTTLES!

Make sure you get the real LENTREK* TC in plastic coex bottles with white caps and gallon cans. If you are not sure you have the genuine LENTREK* TC, call Engr. Lunas at 843-6011 to 15 or Cellphone 0920-0910-2629 (ANAY).



Solignum and Lentrek* TC are exclusively distributed by
Jardine Distribution, Inc.
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City 1200
www.jardinedistribution.com

New US envoy here

NEWLY-APPOINTED US AMBASSADOR to the Philippines, Kristie Anne Kenney, arrived in Manila late last night.

Kenney arrived on board Continental Airlines flight CS 933 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) at around 9:35 p.m.

She was met by US Charge d' Affaires Paul Jones, embassy officials and staff, and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) executive director for protocol, Adelio Cruz.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be here. This is one of the most special countries for the US." Kenney said.

Nikko Dizon

PATALSIKIN NA. NOW NA!

FORMER PRESIDENT Corazon Aquino and former Education Secretary Butch Abad visit Soliman at the Western Police District.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Baywalking Dinky nabbed

From page A1

Both were brought to the WPD headquarters along UN Avenue for questioning.

Former President Corazon C. Aquino, accompanied by her son Rep. Benigno Aquino III, immediately went to the police headquarters to find out what happened and expressed concern over the arrest. Another visitor was former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, who with Soliman leads the Hyatt 10, a group of Cabinet members and officials who resigned last year.

"This is surprising," Aquino told reporters. "Dinky said they were just strolling and there were just a few of them. That is why I came here to find out what really happened. But of course, I am in full support of her."

The BWM immediately condemned the arrest.

Capital of repression

"Black and White Movement denounces the paranoid and heavy handed treatment of citizens in the city of Manila, including the arrest of Dinky Soliman and Enteng Romano, for daring to cross Roxas Boulevard at a ped xing (pedestrian crossing). Apparently Baywalk is only for the privileged few. Manila is the capital of repression," Leah Navarro of BWM said in a statement.

Clad in black T-shirts that bear the message "*Patalsikin na, now na!* (Out now)", Soliman and Romano were arrested around 6:45 p.m. as they, along with about 50 other members of the BWM were about to cross Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard.

At 10:30 last night, Soliman was taken to the Manila City Hall to undergo inquest proceedings.

Police said members of the BWM initially gathered at Aristocrat Restaurant near Rajah Sulayman Park.

Supt. Arturo Paglinawan, chief of the MPD-General Assignment Section, said that as early as 4 p.m. they had already received information that a group of protesters would hold a lightning rally, prompting them to deploy policemen to the area.

Is it bad to wear black?

"The protesters were clad in different T-shirts when they came to the restaurant, some even ordered food," Paglinawan said. "But when they came out all of them were already wearing black shirts."

When police confronted the group and asked if they have a rally permit, the protesters failed to show any, Paglinawan said.

But Soliman denied they were holding a rally saying they did not have any banner, flags or streamers.

"*Maglalakad lang naman kami, masama na ba magsuot ng itim na T-shirt* (We were just walking. Is it bad to wear a black T-shirt)?" Soliman said. "*May karapatan naman kami, pinapakita lang namin yung aming paninindigan* (We have rights. We just want to show our determination). This is a clear violation of our rights."

Not GMA

Soliman also denied that it was the President they were referring to in their shirts. "We did not mention any names. We're referring to corrupt officials of the government," she added.

But Paglinawan said : "We could easily circumvent, but the intentions ... the fact that they are known critics of the government and we often see them holding protest rallies against the President, it is clearly a political activity."

Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao defended the police action, saying Soliman and Romano had violated the Public Assembly Act.

Law is supreme

"The arrest ... manifests the strong commitment of the PNP to enforce the law without fear or favor," he said. "The rule of law is supreme and must prevail at all times. Secretary Soliman is responsible enough to know the consequences of her unlawful actions, being a former ranking government official."

"No one is above the law," Pagdilao added. "The actions of the arresting officers are well within our mandate and consistent with police procedures." *With a report from Tarra Quismundo*

FVR to Gringo: Stop dreaming, surrender

From page A1

to be hunted down ... and just (be captured) like that because he's no longer the Gringo of 25 years ago. That (was) a young, daring lieutenant colonel. He may still be physically fit but he cannot lure (people) without being recognized anymore. He's too well known a figure," Ramos told reporters

Ramos said Honasan could himself collect the reward money placed on his head and donate it to welfare foundations of the police and the military.

Asked about Senators Juan Ponce Enrile's and Panfilo Lacson's advice to Honasan not to surrender, Ramos said with a laugh, "Well that's their opinion. Maybe they have another mission for him."

Pawns in political chess

Ramos said he felt sorry for Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, Col. Ariel Querubin, Chief Supt. Marcelo Franco and other police and military officers allegedly linked to coup plots.

He described them as "all respected decorated officers being used in the political chess game."

No one above the law

The letter was addressed "Dear Kumpadre" and signed "Gringo".

The police are printing some 5,000 posters with the pictures of Honasan and six others accused of the crime of coup de etat, including retired Navy Capt. Felix Turingan; retired Colonels Ernesto Macahiya, Virgilio Briones and Romeo Lazo; George Duldulao and Lina Reyes.

The total reward money—P8 million—for information about Honasan and the others is roughly the same amount offered by the authorities for the capture of some of the country's most notorious kidnappers and terrorists.

Only a court can determine whether the government has a case against Honasan, according to Philippine National Police spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

"No one is above the law," Pagdilao said.

"Ordinary citizens, even the high and the mighty ... should be treated equally under the law," he said.

2 NBI teams

Reynaldo Esmeralda, regional director of the National Bureau of Investigation's bureau's Special Task Force, said the NBI would request the Makati Regional Trial Court to issue a Hold Departure Order against Honasan and his six alleged co-conspirators to prevent them from leaving the country.

The NBI has formed two 10-member teams to track down Honasan and the six.

Esmeralda said the NBI had good leads on Honasan's whereabouts "but we do not want to preempt the operations."

Esmeralda said the NBI teams "are ready for any eventuality" should Honasan resist arrest.

"We will respond (to the situation) as the need arises," he told reporters.

Malacañang accused Honasan of coveting "political power through the back door."

Face the music

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also said: "His (Honasan) is a lost struggle and he cannot recapture the image of a rebel with a cause after turning his back on the democratic system he once served."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles called on Honasan to face the charges against him.

"He should surrender. He should know that no one is above the law or beyond the law. It's time to face the music. If he is innocent, he won't have anything to worry about," said Nograles.

Lawyer Oliver Lozano yesterday said he had received a letter from Honasan denying involvement in any rebellion or coup attempt. It was not known how authentic the supposed letter was.

Honasan purportedly wrote: "As soon as my security group shall have determined that the danger to my life is over, we will go to [Justice] Sec. Raul Gonzales personally to seek justice at his office or, if not available therein, at his residence." *With reports from Tina G. Santos, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., and Michael Lim Ubac*

Gh Locks

IF YOU DID NOT DESIGN YOUR HOUSE TO BE LIKE YOUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR'S, THEN SAY IT UP FRONT.

GH LOCKS.

DESIGNED TO MAKE A STATEMENT UP FRONT. PRICED WITH YOU IN MIND!!

Home of the World's Most Celebrated Brands
Main Showroom : Josol Bldg. E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. C-5 Libis Quezon City Tel Nos 6311607 to 08 / 6376871 to 74 Fax No. 6329783 • E-mail. josolcir@pacific.net.ph
Mt. Home Depot Fort Bonifacio Global City Tel No 8156495

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page story, "Rogues' gallery hit: Violation of presumption of innocence," misspelled the name of one of the suspected communist rebels. His name is Randall Echanis—not Randal Echaniz.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the Page A13 article "Looking for another Magsaysay" misstated that former President Ramon Magsaysay died 59 years ago. President Magsaysay died 49 years ago.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

168 raid may net gov't P700M in unpaid taxes, fines

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE GOVERNMENT STANDS TO gain some P700 million in taxes, duties and penalties from items seized Thursday at the 168 Shopping Mall in Manila, according to Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales.

Morales said yesterday he would look into the possible involvement of Bureau of Customs personnel in the release of imported goods without payment of proper taxes.

He said he would propose to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves the creation of a special task force to handle the investigation of, and the hearing concerning items seized from the mall.

Morales said the task force would assure tenants of a speedy investigation as he had rejected requests to keep seized items in the mall. The items were brought to the bureau's warehouses to be assessed for possible liabilities.

He said only higher-ranking officials like Teves or President Macapagal-Arroyo could grant the request to keep the seized items in the mall, adding that this proposal was a "shortcut" and outside of customs procedure.

Following proper BOC procedure, a warrant of seizure and detention is issued and items are brought to the bureau's premises. This is followed by a hearing where owners present documents to prove that they had paid taxes for the items.

"If we use the 'shortcut,' the bureau might fall under suspicion," Morales said during a meeting yesterday with Tony So from the 168 mall's management, and the tenants' representative Jaime Dychauco of the Philippine-China Cultural and Economic Exchange Development Association.

Dychauco explained that the tenants' request would make the assessment and release of goods faster since some items were not imported, but bought from other importers.

"The bureau should go after the importers," Dychauco said.

He also voiced concern that the closure of the stalls would affect the income of tenants and their Filipino helpers, since the stalls could be closed for as long as three weeks.

Morales said the proposed task force would fast-track the investigation.

Since most of the stalls at the 168 mall remained closed yesterday pending inventory, BOC personnel used bolt cutters to remove the locks – in the presence of mall's officials – so the inventory of goods could commence.

The 168 mall has over 800 tenants selling clothes, shoes, bags, makeup, toys, accessories, household items, school and office supplies, among others. There is a food court on the third floor which was still open for business yesterday.

Chinese Embassy issues advisory

LAST THURSDAY'S RAID ON THE 168 Mall in the heart of Manila's Chinatown prompted the Chinese Embassy to come out with an advisory for its nationals. The latest government crackdown on smugglers and tax evaders targeted mostly Chinese merchants.

On the day of the raid, the embassy's website called on its nationals "to abide by the (local) rules and regulations, conduct business activities legally, and refrain from carrying out any activities which are not in line with their visa purpose."

The mission reminded them that it's "'illegal for foreigners to engage in retail business in the Philippines."

Volt Contreras

FOR CHOLESTEROL HYPERTENSION DIABETES ASTHMA

"Sa ating mga ina ng tahanan,
napakahalaga ang kalusugan
ng ating pamilya.

Pagdating sa gamot, buo ang
aking tiwala sa Ritemed.
De-kalidad at mura lamang.
Napagkakatiwalaan dahil
gawa ng Unilab."

Ma. Consuelo Z. Garcia
MA. CONSUELO Z. GARCIA, M.D.
President,
Private School Health Officers' Association

Kumunsulta sa inyong doktor o itanong sa botika kung aling gamot ng Ritemed ang nararapat sa inyong karamdaman.

now?
now?
now?
now?

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

When should you start securing your future?

Your future depends on what you do now. That's why now is the time to grow your money faster – with PowerVantage. With a minimum deposit of Php100,000*, you can combine accounts, currencies and durations for better earnings, and avail of insurance products, standby credit and loans when you need them**.

PowerVantage - more than savings, it's security for your future.
For details, call **(02) 878-9000** or visit **www.hsbc.com.ph**.

**Or Foreign Currency equivalent.*
***Insurance products are subject to the approval, policies and procedures of HSBC Insurance Brokers Inc.*
Loans and credit products are subject to the bank's approval, policies and procedures.

Celebrating 130 Taon sa Pilipinas

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.

HSBC
The world's local bank

Slain Pasig trader's kin: He had no foes but Chavit

From page A1

for questioning merely on the basis of mere insinuations.

"There are witnesses we know but they are very scared. The only way we can [solve this] is to have our own investigation, even if it means shelling out our own resources by giving a reward," Umale family lawyer Agnes Maranan told the INQUIRER.

"Maybe this will trigger some responses," Maranan said.

Maranan said that Umale's wife, Clarissa, had put on record that "as far as she knows, her husband did not have any enemies except Chavit Singson."

Singson has strongly rejected claims he was involved, saying he was an "ally, not an enemy" of the victim.

The governor also claimed that Umale had many enemies.

One of at least four men shot Umale at close range while he was about to enter his Pearl Plaza Building inside the Ortigas Center in Pasig City about 11:30 a.m. Thursday. He was with his wife.

Police were still waiting for Umale's wife to give an official statement.

"(The wife) is not only a complainant but also a very important witness. She saw the four gunmen who killed her husband," Pasig City Police chief Senior Supt. Romeo Abaring told the INQUIRER.

"We have already sent a go-between to get statements from the family. We understand that the family could not yet entertain our investigators now," Abaring said.

Not over parking space

Reacting to Singson's statement, Clarissa said her husband had no enemies except the Ilocos Sur politician.

Maranan, speaking in behalf of Clarissa, said the killing had nothing to do with the tug-of-war over a parking space on Pearl Drive at the Ortigas Center last year, which involved Umale and the Ynareses of Rizal.

"We want to clarify reports connecting the murder to that incident last year. It is unfair to Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares," Maranan said.

In January 2005, Umale's men shot it out with guards of a security agency reportedly run by a relative of Singson as Umale and the Ynareses contested the operation of the parking space.

The dispute was resolved days later and both parties agreed to just allow free parking in the area.

Can't invite Chavit

"That was more than a year ago. They have become good friends after that," Maranan said.

Ynares told the INQUIRER that even though he had clashed with Umale before, he felt sorry for the family.

"We express our condolences ... We are praying for his soul," Ynares said in a phone interview.

"You should interview Chavit Singson," Umale's wife had shouted to reporters after her husband was brought to the Medical City in Mandaluyong after he was shot.

"That's what the wife says. But she did not categorically say that she saw this. These are just insinuations," said Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, head of the Eastern Police District.

"No, we cannot invite him (Singson). Someone should first point to him as having a hand in the killing before we can investigate (him)," the officer said, adding there was "no basis" to do this at the time.

Many grudges

The assassins also shot the building electrician, Ernesto Lanton, in the belly when he rushed to help Umale.

Alejandrino said a background check on the businessman revealed that he had many enemies.

"This person who had died, based on our investigation, had many enemies. It won't be fair to pinpoint one person," the EPD chief said.

"This is not the first such incident ... Many things had happened here. The incident involving the parking lot in front of the Pearl building is just one of them," Alejandrino said.

Suspects' sketches

"Based on what I know, two years before that, there was another incident. There was a shooting involving security guards. (In that incident), Umale's name also cropped up," he said.

Police released artist's sketches of three of the four suspected gunmen.

The first suspect was about 5'5", between 45 and 50 years old, thin and had white or graying hair. The police said the man with fair complexion looked "rugged," like a "construction worker."

The second man was about 5'8", between 28 and 30 years old, and was brown-skinned. The police described him as a well-built man or "maskulado."

According to the sketch, the man had black hair, long eyebrows and had a "little mustache."

Only the third man had an identifying mark—a scar or wound, about one to two inches long, above the right eyebrow, the police said.

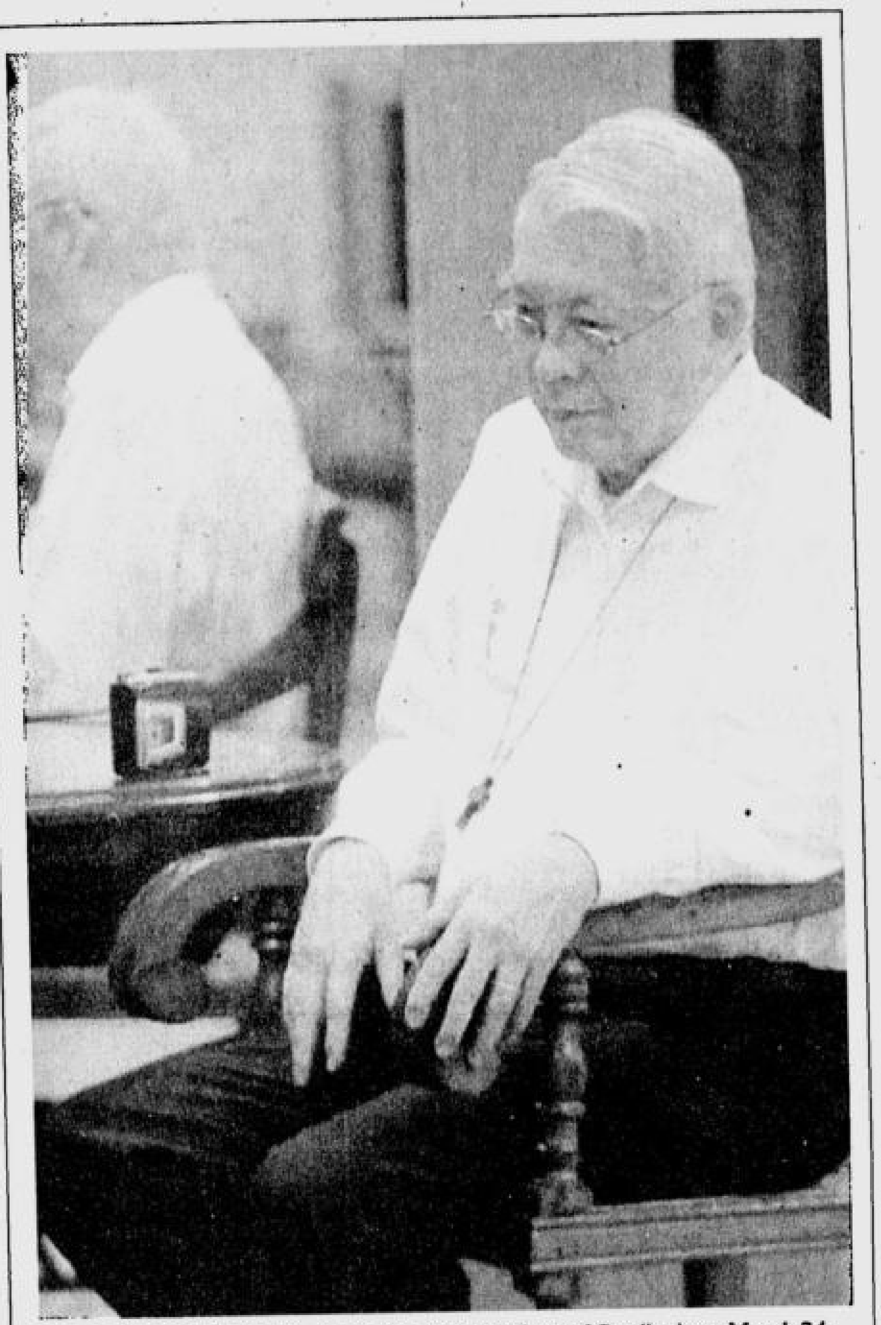
He was about 5'7", between 30 and 35 years old. His hair was cropped short.

Hired killers

Investigators believed they were hired killers and the motive was most likely business-related.

"He (Umale) was a businessman, it could be possible that it is business-related," an officer added.

The police must first track down the four gunmen, interrogate them, and then work on the others who had a hand in the killing, according to EPD chief Alejandrino.



VATICAN-BOUND for his induction to the College of Cardinals on March 24, Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales waits for his flight Thursday. JESS YUSON

Fil-American doctor keeps coming home to give back

From page A1

He sees no clear solution to the problem unless it comes from the government and the economy becomes stable enough to support decent income.

"It's very difficult because it has to start from the top," he said. "You've got to have a plan to solve this problem."

Make a wish

Gangoy and his wife came home two months ago for another reason.

Andy Ardan, a 14-year-old hemophiliac from San Pedro, Laguna, had long dreamed of owning a computer to help him with his high school education. His disease had kept him mostly at home.

Make A Wish, a foundation which grants wishes of children with life-threatening diseases, got wind of Andy's condition and linked him up with the retired Navy doctor through a Filipino businessman.

One donor provided the computer while Gangoy promised to get Ardan a health insurance so his parents wouldn't have to worry about his medical expenses.

Ardan would get hospitalized three times a year. His father, a market vendor, would raise P70,000 each time. Two siblings died of hemophilia, while hepatitis claimed a third one.

Hemophilia is one disease a poor family like the Ardans doesn't deserve. But it's a given and it's up to good Samaritans like Gangoy to try and make life easier for the family.

Two decades and counting

Gangoy's medical missions have endured for two decades now, largely through the help of other Filipino physicians based in the United States. They, too, left, but they did not forget their countrymen.

Gangoy is an official of the Philippine Medical Association of Southeastern Virginia, Association of Philippine Family Practice and the Association of Philippine Physicians in America—all involved in fund-raising activities to finance medical missions here.

Inspired by the long-distance *bayanihan* (cooperation), some American doctors also chip in, he said.

"We raise funds there so we could use them here [in the Philippines]," Gangoy said.

He said the humble amount of $3,000 (P150,000)—which probably wouldn't make a dent in a rich country like the United States—was considered a fortune in a small town in Iloilo, which his team once visited. The town had a small clinic visited by a doctor once a week.

Grateful patients

During missions, Gangoy and his group would face the same depressing scenario—people with tuberculosis, infections and cysts—easily treatable in the First World, but not in these parts.

There were also people who would troop to the mission centers, not to seek treatment, but to beg for food.

For Gangoy and his colleagues, who were used to First World conditions, the scenario was frustrating.

Often, he would be left with no choice but to prescribe a "shotgun" treatment. Simply put, a patient was given medication that would cover every problem in the body.

"It's frustrating but you have no choice," he lamented. "It's gratifying though because you're able to help. If only you could see the gratitude in their faces."

ISS INSTITUTE OF SYSTEMS SCIENCE
NUS National University of Singapore

NUS Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis (26th Intake)

Who Should Attend

Designed for non-IT graduates who recognise the need to equip themselves with the latest IT knowledge and skills, and wish to advance their careers in their current field. It also provides an opportunity for non-IT graduates in crafting a new career path in the IT industry.

What Will Be Covered

IT Project Management
- IT Roles & Responsibilities, Business Communication
- Project Planning & Change Control

Methodology
- Object-Oriented Development Life Cycle (RUP & UML)

Technology
- Distributed Computing Infrastructure

Programming & Development
- C#, .NET, Java, J2EE, Web Services, SQL

Internet and Mobile Solutions
- Internet and Wireless Technologies
- Multimedia & Advanced Internet Programming

Projects
- Application Development with C# & .NET Framework
- Cyber Shopping Mall with ASP.NET & Web Services
- Mobile Application Development
- Web Project on J2EE

Industrial Attachment (5 months)

"The course instilled in us hard skills in the form of an impressive coverage of practical IT topics, as well as soft skills in the form of real life project management skills and team building exercises which simulated real world working situations. These invaluable skills and ISS' strong reputation equipped us with the confidence and capabilities to face the working world and to gain recognition in the Information Technology Industry."

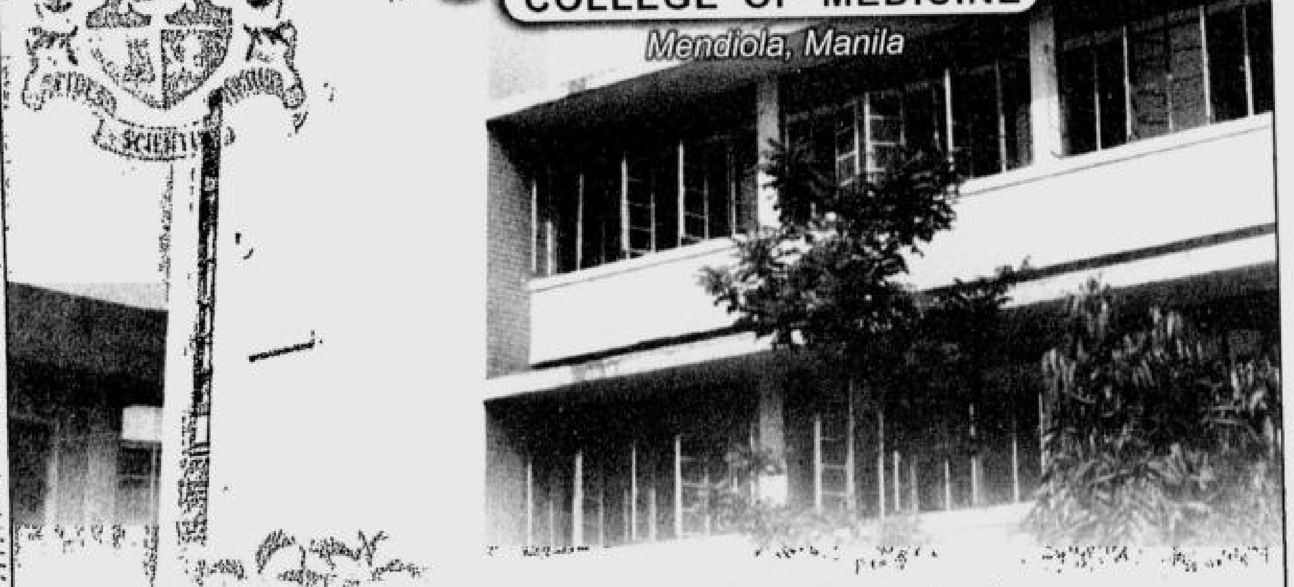
Iris Goh Mei Nee (GDipSA graduate 2004-2005), Associate, KPMG Information Risk Management.

Schedule
11-months full-time
(Aug 2006 to Jul 2007)

Tuition Fee (subject to change)
S$6000 (incl. GST)
(international students)

Entry Requirement
University degree holder
(non-IT discipline)

Programme details & application form can be downloaded from www.iss.nus.edu.sg
For more information, please contact Siewfern at (65) 65164830 or siewfern@iss.nus.edu.sg
Institute of Systems Science, National University of Singapore, 25 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Singapore 119615. Tel: (65) 65162093 Fax: (65) 67782571



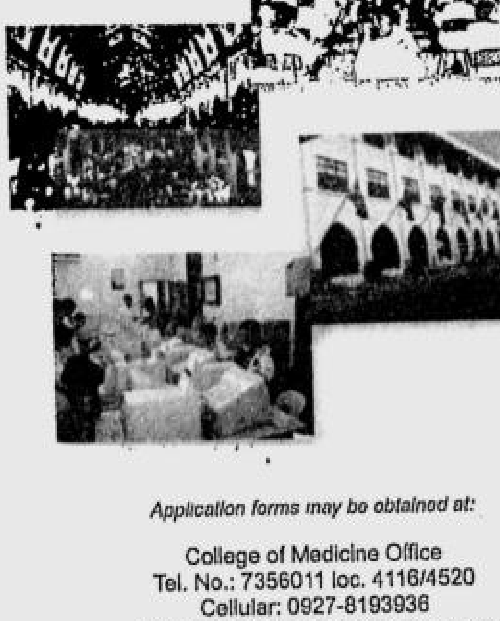
COLEGIO DE SAN BEDA

San Beda College
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Mendiola, Manila

Curricular Instruction Using Information Technology
Humanistic and Christian Approach to Patients
Predominantly UP Graduate and UP-PGH Trained Faculty

General Admission Information for the Academic Year 2006-2007

1. Applicants must submit the following requirements for evaluation.
   a. Original Transcript of Records of the last 3 ½ years of Baccalaureate program
   b. Four copies of colored pictures (2x2)
   c. Two Certified copies of Birth Certificate
   d. Certificate of Good Moral Character from a former professor or dean
   e. Two letters of recommendation from a former professor or dean
   f. Police Clearance
   g. Medical Clearance
   h. CBC (complete blood account)
   i. Urinalysis
   j. Chest X-Ray (PA view)
2. Applicants must have taken the National Medical Admission Test (NMAT) before June 2006.
3. Applicants must pay the application fee and secure an application form from the Dean's Office.
4. Applicants must pass an interview session given by the Admissions Committee.
5. Applicants must obtain their Baccalaureate degree by the end of the second semester preceding admission to medical school. Those who will graduate after the summer session preceding admission to medical school will be considered on a case to case basis
6. Applicants should have no criminal conviction current or past.
7. Applicants must have critical thinking and leadership qualities.
8. Applicants must have been recommended by the Admissions Commitee to the Dean of the San Beda College of Medicine for acceptance.



Application forms may be obtained at:

College of Medicine Office
Tel. No.: 7356011 loc. 4116/4520
Cellular: 0927-8193936
Email: sanbedacolmed@yahoo.com
Website: www.sanbeda.edu.ph

" That in all things God may be glorified."

Mike D wants Jamby probed

WHAT IF SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE'S tirades were true?

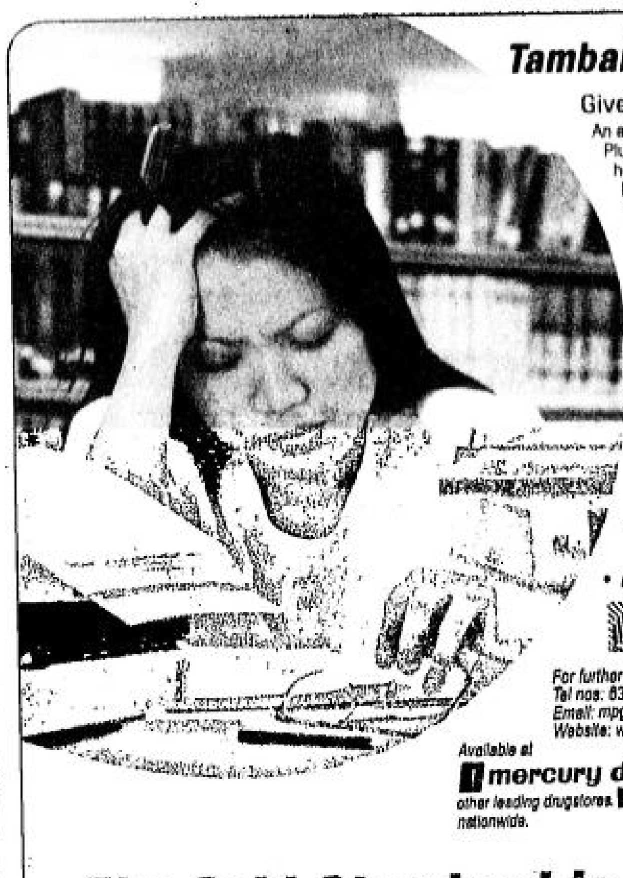
Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor jumped on tit-for-tat accusations traded on the Senate floor to put on the spot Sen. Jamby Madrigal, who once blocked his nomination as environment secretary at the Commission on Appointments.

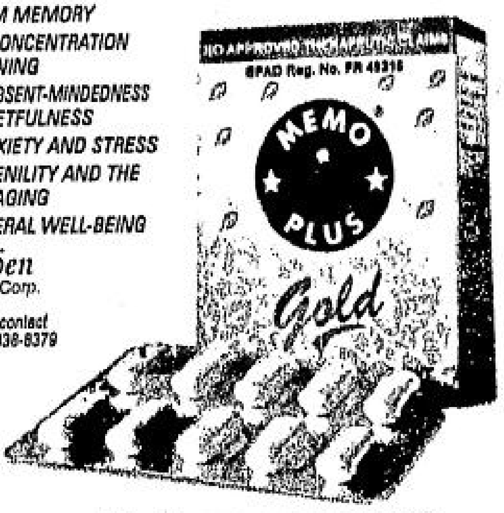
Defensor said yesterday Madrigal should be investigated over allegations made by Enrile that she cheated in the 2004 senatorial elections.

"If there was really cheating and (Enrile) has personal knowledge of it, then there should be some formal hearing either in the Senate ethics committee or in the Commission on Elections," Defensor told reporters.

He noted that Madrigal was one of those who accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of cheating in the 2004 presidential election and that the latter had denied this.

"If Enrile has evidence, this could be used to see who really cheated in the last elections," he said. *Christine O. Avendaño*





Tambak ba ang kallangang I-memorize nlya?

Give her a helping hand with Memo Plus Gold.

An all-natural herbal supplement developed from an ancient *Ayurvedic* formula. Memo Plus Gold contains the extract of *Brahmi* or *Bacopa Monniera*, a memory-enhancing herb that improves nerve impulse transmission for better memory and enhanced learning capability.

Memo Plus Gold is ideal for all students, professionals, homemakers, and the elderly. Clinical trials by the Central Drug Research Institute in India and extensive studies conducted in Australia prove that Memo Plus Gold is safe and effective.

For best results, take one Memo Plus Gold capsule after a meal, twice a day, for three months. For maintenance, the ideal dose is one capsule a day after a meal.

- ENHANCE SHORT AND LONG TERM MEMORY
- IMPROVE CONCENTRATION AND LEARNING
- ALLEVIATE ABSENT-MINDEDNESS AND FORGETFULNESS
- REDUCE ANXIETY AND STRESS
- DECREASE SENILITY AND THE EFFECTS OF AGING
- MAINTAIN GENERAL WELL-BEING

Davenben Enterprises Corp.

For further information, please contact
Tel nos: 638-8573; 631-9883; 638-6379
Email: mpg@davenben.com
Website: www.davenben.com

Available at mercury drug stores, other leading drugstores nationwide.

The Gold Standard in Memory Enhancement

SONY like.no.other™

I'm leaving for San Francisco tomorrow.
I'll be pursuing my studies for another year.
Good thing I already bought my Cyber-shot here in the Philippines.

For someone like Joan, studying abroad & getting a Sony Cyber-shot here in the Philippines are two of the best decisions she's ever made.

Because she knows that by buying here, she can:
- Choose among Sony's wide range of the latest Cyber-shot models available
- Get great freebies like Cyber-shot accessories and take advantage of competitive prices from Sony promos
- **Opt to have her Cyber-shot serviced or repaired in 45 countries such as USA, Canada, Singapore, Hongkong, Taiwan, UK and UAE and, still continue to benefit from the local warranty* even when she comes back home—all for a very reasonable price.**

So, be like Joan. Invest on a Sony Cyber-shot right here, right now!
*applicable to Option 3 only

SONY TLW Tourist Limited Warranty 3 YEAR WARRANTY

Simply Choose The Warranty Option That's Best For You!

Option 1 3 Year LOCAL Warranty (1 Year Standard – 2 Years Extension) from date of purchase (Supplied inside the box)

Option 2 1 Year TOURIST LIMITED WARRANTY (TLW) from date of purchase (Exchange the Supplied 3 Year Local Warranty for TLW)

Option 3 Or, Get Both Local & Tourist Limited Warranty For Only P1,500!
3 Year LOCAL Warranty & 1 Year Tourist Limited Warranty (TLW) both from date of purchase. PLUS, get FREE P1,000 worth of Cybershot and Handycam Accessories & Media Gift Certificate

Above warranty options can be redeemed within one (1) month from date of purchase of camera in any TLW Exchange Points (any Sony Service Center or Selected Exhibits).

SONY DIGITAL *Surprises!*

Contact us to get hold of a FREE copy of Sony's promo catalogue at 878-7600 or visit our website at www.sony.com.ph!
Promo period: Feb. 16, 2005 to Mar. 31, 2006. See posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0647 Series of 2006

Exclusively Distributed by: Sony Philippines Inc.- 26th Flr. Tower 1, 6766 The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, 1226 PHILIPPINES

www.sony.com.ph CCC Sony Customer Contact Center (02) 878-7600 info.sph@ap.sony.com

mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

DISCOUNTS FOR SUKI CARD HOLDERS!

SUKI SABADO SPECIAL

MARCH 18 to 24, 2006

NIDO 1+ G-UP MILK 180G	REG. PRICE P 72.00	PAY ONLY 69.75
NIDO 1+ G-UP MILK 400G	REG. PRICE P 157.50	PAY ONLY 152.75
NIDO 1+ G-UP MILK 900G	REG. PRICE P 347.25	PAY ONLY 336.75
NIDO 1+ G-UP MILK 2000G	REG. PRICE P 759.75	PAY ONLY 736.75
NIDO 3+ PDR MILK CHOCO 400G	REG. PRICE P 158.50	PAY ONLY 153.75
NIDO 3+ PDR MILK 180G	REG. PRICE P 69.00	PAY ONLY 66.75
NIDO 3+ PDR MILK 400G	REG. PRICE P 151.25	PAY ONLY 146.75
NIDO 3+ PDR MILK 900G	REG. PRICE P 330.00	PAY ONLY 320.00
NIDO PDR MILK 180G	REG. PRICE P 54.25	PAY ONLY 52.50
NIDO PDR MILK 400G	REG. PRICE P 118.75	PAY ONLY 115.00
NIDO PDR MILK 900G	REG. PRICE P 264.25	PAY ONLY 256.00
NIDO PDR MILK 1800G	REG. PRICE P 535.25	PAY ONLY 519.00
NIDO PDR MILK 2500G	REG. PRICE: P 749.25	PAY ONLY 726.75
PONDS BEAUTY CPDR 50G	REG. PRICE: P 30.25	PAY ONLY 28.75
PONDS FCL SCRB+A-BTRIAL 50ML	REG. PRICE P 60.75	PAY ONLY 57.50
PONDS CLNSR&TNR FCLWASH 50ML		
VASELINE LOT DNRSHNG 100ML	REG PRICE P 53.50	PAY ONLY 50.75
VASELINE LOT DNRSHNG 200ML	REG. PRICE P 92.00	PAY ONLY 87.25
DOVE CR BAR UNSC 100G	REG. PRICE P 45.75	PAY ONLY 43.25
DOVE CR BAR MSTRZNG 135G	REG. PRICE P 56.00	PAY ONLY 53.00

Suki Card Program Guidelines
1. The Suki Card Program is available to all customers over 18 years old.
2. To receive a Suki Card, customer must present receipt(s) of single or cumulative purchases worth P1,000.00 made from any Mercury Drug Store.
3. Suki Card Members are entitled to discounts from participating products.
4. All purchases made through the Suki Card will earn points. Every purchase of P200.00 is equivalent to 1 point.
5. Mercury Drug Suki Points are redeemable in multiples of 10 points. Every Suki Point is equivalent to P1.00.
6. Always present your Suki Card before making any purchases.
7. Mercury Drug reserves the right to modify or restrict the usage of the card without prior notice.

The Suki Card program is available in all Metro Manila branches including Bulacan (except Baliuag), Cavite, Laguna (except San Pablo), Rizal, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Baguio, La Trinidad, La Union, Iriga, Nabua, Naga Elias Angeles, Naga Peñafrancia, Tagbilaran, all branches in Cebu, Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Antique, Davao, Surigao, Misamis Oriental, Agusan and Bukidnon. Right reserved to limit quantities on all items. These promo discounts shall not be used together with any other discount privilege.
For other promos please visit our website at www.mercurydrug.com

Biazon: Be careful in handling Honasan

From page A1

supporters. What I'm saying is, if they are going to pursue the implementation of the warrant of arrest, they better be able to present a strong case," he said.

"[Honasan was] elected [senator] with, what, 8, 9, 10 million votes? That's something," he added.

Biazon also cited supposed indications that the military might not be interested in hunting down Honasan."

He noted that during the budget hearing at the House on Thursday, military officers said it was the police's job to arrest Honasan.

In the course of defending the defense budget, Manila Rep. Rodolfo Bacani informed the House, after consulting with Armed Forces chief Gen. Generoso Senga, that there was no order for the military to look for Honasan, but that the former senator should be arrested if sighted.

Anything can happen

Biazon also said that there would be dire consequences if restive troops saw that constitutional means to resolve allegations of election fraud in 2004 no longer worked.

"Anything can happen," Biazon, a retired Marine general and chief of staff of the Armed Forces, told INQUIRER editors and reporters in a free-wheeling interview.

He said the consequences could include a "revolutionary situation."

"The potential is still there because the issues of corruption, cheating, politicization [of the military], etc. etc. have not been addressed. It's piling up," said Biazon, whose committee is conducting an inquiry into the wiretapping and cheating raised in the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Biazon also said that while President Macapagal-Arroyo had managed to ward off resignation calls and ouster plots, she would have her "day of reckoning" if the military withdrew support from her.

2 options

He said there were two constitutional options available to address the crisis dogging the President: impeachment and resignation as a result of the withdrawal of support by the military brass.

"If impeachment fails, they will have to revert back to the next step: resignation because of withdrawal of support. But the withdrawal of support can only come from the [AFP]. If the [AFP] withdraws support, she's done for."

Asked if he was encouraging the military to do just that, the senator let out a laugh.

He said that if the military's withdrawal of support would not take place, Filipinos would have to "grin and bear it" until 2010, when Ms Arroyo ends her term.

"The President will have her day of reckoning," Biazon said, adding that her fear of being prosecuted was the single biggest reason she had rebuffed calls for her resignation.

"When she steps down, she loses her immunity," he noted.

Non-disclosure of report

Biazon said that a month after Malacañang released the "Hello Garci" tapes, various groups came to see him to discuss the allegations of cheating against the President.

He said he was approached on July 2, 2005, by a group of active officers led by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin, former chief of the Scout Rangers and commander of a Marine brigade, respectively.

The officers were frustrated by the absence of an investigation of the generals implicated in the purported election cheating, and warned of mass resignation, Biazon said.

"I told them, I advise you to exhaust all institutional processes. And they said, 'We'll watch the impeachment. We'll also watch what happens in the streets,'" he recalled.

Then military chief Gen. Efren Abu ordered a fact-finding probe headed by then AFP Inspector General and now Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga.

But the contents of the Mayuga report have yet to be disclosed.

And the generals implicated in the wiretapping scandal were even promoted: Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon was named Army chief; Lt. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, chief of the AFP Southern Command; and Rear Admiral Tirso Danga, chief of the AFP Western Command.

"[The promotions were what] triggered it," said Biazon.

To all the groups that visited him, Biazon said, he stressed that the constitutional processes should be observed: either Ms Arroyo's resignation or her impeachment trial.

But the President's allies in the House managed to quash the impeachment case on a technicality.

The President has also thwarted legislative inquiries into the "Hello Garci" scandal with her Executive Order No. 464 (barring government executives from attending legislative inquiries without her say-so) and her Proclamation No. 1017 (declaring a state of national emergency).

"The sad thing is, does she think her simply saying 'I have nothing to do with Garci' enough? Soldiers are not blind, not deaf, not dumb," Biazon said.

"I do hope we still give the institutions and institutional processes the chance to provide a solution to this situation. My fear is if it becomes very clear that the institutional processes had been destroyed..." he said before trailing off.

Critical mass

Then he went on: "I'm afraid that if there's no more hope in the institutional processes, anything can happen.

"I have not given up hope. There is still the Supreme Court."

It was a reference to the pending petitions declaring unconstitutional Proclamation No. 1017, the warrantless arrests and the media crackdown undertaken during the weeklong state of emergency.

"If the Supreme Court proves itself to be vulnerable to political pressure, will it trigger...?" Biazon said.

The senator said the military would not take part in a revolt without a critical mass of people in the streets.

"The soldiers have learned their lesson from the past, whether Edsa II, or Edsa I," he said, referring to the military-backed bloodless revolts that ousted President Joseph Estrada in January 2001 and the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986.

"For people power to succeed, you need two elements: the people in the streets and the soldiers. And the soldiers have realized that if they trigger it, and there are no people, they could end up being sacrificed, like in [the] Oakwood [mutiny on July 27, 2003]," he said.

But he stressed that he was not advocating extra-constitutional means to change leaders.

"I'm an institutionalist. How can I reverse my previous stand? I can't accept coup d'etat," said Biazon, who fought the coup attempts launched against the Aquino administration.

"The soldiers and the military service may be able to grab power by brute force, but I don't think they can govern," he said.

AFP dangerously politicized—FVR

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL RAMOS yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo could no longer count on the loyalty of low-ranking field officers in the military and police despite the support of Gen. Generoso Senga, the AFP chief of staff, and his major service commanders.

"Ms Arroyo may still count on the loyalty of the general and flag officers—the military and police hierarchy—but not of low-ranking field officers," Ramos said in his keynote speech, "Beyond Our Political Crisis of Legitimacy," during a joint meeting of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce and Associations in Makati City.

He said one proof of this was the planned withdrawal of support for the President by key officers of elite units—the Army's Scout Rangers, the Navy's Marines and the Philippine National Police's Special Action Force—during the 20th anniversary of Edsa I.

These officers were stripped of their commands after being accused of plotting to overthrow the administration in supposed connivance with politicians and the communists.

Of the elite commands, according to Ramos, only the Army's Special Forces Regiment apparently stayed loyal to the Commander in Chief.

Ramos, a former AFP chief of staff and defense secretary, recalled the emotional farewell between the battle-scarred Col. Ariel Querubin and his troops, and the grounding of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

While Querubin, Lim and other rebellious officers may be jailed or dismissed from the service, he said, those judged less guilty may be reintegrated into the chain of command but would always be the objects of suspicion."

On the other hand, soldiers loyal to their dismissed commanders would consider the replacements "usurpers" and "opportunists."

"This situation, which we must expect and will prevail in the elite units for some time longer, does not make for a happy or even a united armed services," Ramos said.

Artificial stability

According to Ramos, the declaration of a state of national emergency was an artificial kind of stability that would not withstand extraordinary pressure.

"Few people realize how close—how terribly close—we came to a catastrophe at the Marine headquarters at Fort Bonifacio that Sunday evening of Feb. 26," he said.

On that day, Marines massed to protest the sudden relief of their commander. The standoff lasted six hours.

Ramos admitted that there would be no end to mutinies because the AFP was "dangerously politicized."

Put up bounty for Joc-joc too, Biazon urges

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER PUTTING UP P5 MILLION FOR THE capture of former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, the administration should put up the same amount for former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon raised the suggestion on Thursday night, saying Bolante and other Department of Agriculture officials linked to the P728-million fertilizer fund scam required such a bounty because they could face plunder charges.

Bolante and the other officials are now in hiding.

"If P5 million is put on the head of Gringo, I ask that the same be done to Bolante because Bolante is being charged with plunder, a capital offense," Biazon said.

AFP spokesman ...

From page A1

Staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan [retired]. After Adan, then deputy chief of staff and now AFP Central Command chief Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin briefly served as spokesperson.

Honrado was named AFP deputy chief of staff for reservists and retirees' affairs (J7) last January, and Brig. Gen. Jaime Buenaflor took over as CRS chief in February.

Honrado yesterday also did not take back Kison's statements nor did he make any clarification. He simply told reporters that the AFP "respects the senators' views."

Kison free to speak

Honrado also denied that Kison was being prevented from making any more statements to the media.

"Kison is still PIO chief. He still speaks for the AFP as well as I [do]. Kison was never castigated," he said.

"I have always been the spokesman. I was on leave for a while. I was directed to grant interviews again," he added.

Last September, Honrado was castigated for saying that the military court trying the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny leaders would never release the rebels. The court, at the time, had not made a formal ruling on a petition to dismiss the case based on prescription.

Honrado was ordered by court president Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon to publicly apologize.

Abolished propaganda arm

The AFP PIO is part of the handpicked personal staff of the AFP chief of staff. As the PIO chief, Kison reports directly to Gen. Generoso Senga.

The CRS, on the other hand, is a military propaganda arm. It was the operating arm of the former Office of the AFP deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations (J7).

But that office was abolished last year and its operations placed under the Office of the AFP deputy chief of staff for operations (J3).

On Wednesday, Kison reacting to Sen. Joker Arroyo's observations about the military's crucial role, warned that the nation would fall apart if the military gave in to pressure from various power blocs and withdrew support from Ms Arroyo.

Strong pillar

"We are the target [of destabilization] because we are one of the strong pillars holding the nation. If we break, the nation will collapse," Kison had said.

He said the events last Feb. 24 was a "test" of the military's resolve to uphold the Constitution.

"Suffice it to say, the Armed Forces is strong. Once it weakens, the whole nation is in danger. The Left, the Right and the opposition will grab power for themselves," Kison had warned.

"We're not saying the other institutions have weakened. But if the Armed Forces gives in, all the rest will follow," he said.

He added: "The AFP has a huge responsibility—that's why it's the target. If General Senga had joined [the coup plotters], we would have a different government now."

Messianic

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former military chief, said such statements that conveyed that the military was keeping the President in power was "the height of arrogance." He warned the military "not to be intoxicated with power."

He said such remarks reduced the Office of the President to a mere "rubber stamp" of the military and that all the other institutions in adversarial position are in a "no-contest situation considering that the AFP has the brute force of arms."

Senator Arroyo said Kison merely confirmed his observation the military "was now the one calling the shots."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson also slammed Kison's "high-handed" view, saying the military apparently had taken a "messianic role" in the country's affairs.

Not kingmakers

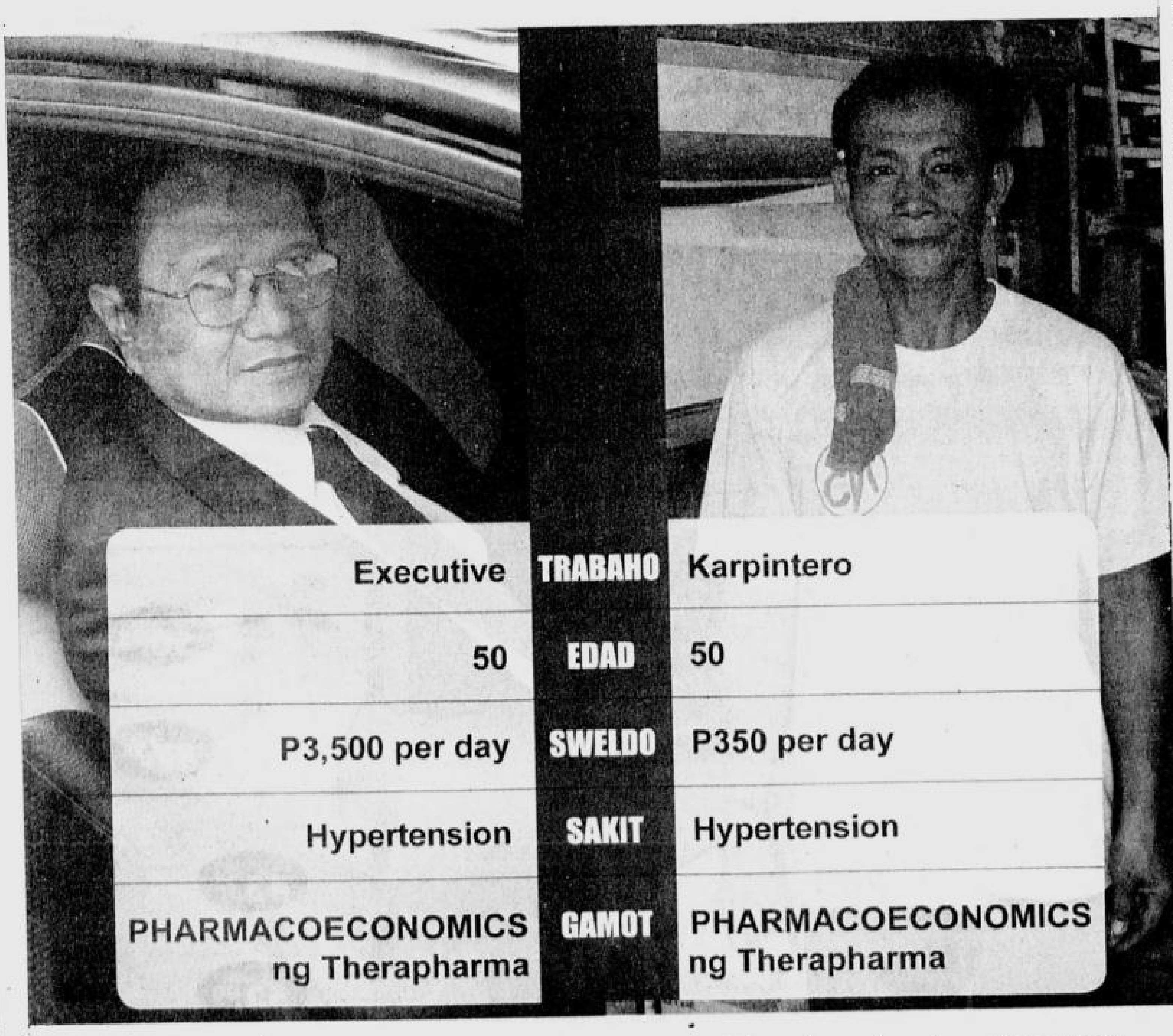
Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said the military should not think of themselves as "kingmakers."

"It is not the AFP but the rule of law that holds the nation together," she said.

But Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita conceded that the military played a "major role" in keeping the President in power during the Feb. 24 coup plot.

"The most important thing is that the armed services—the military and police—are living up to their role by respecting the Constitution and the Commander in Chief," Ermita said.

Bulsa ko, buhay ko...
PAREHONG PANALO!



Executive	TRABAHO	Karpintero
50	EDAD	50
P3,500 per day	SWELDO	P350 per day
Hypertension	SAKIT	Hypertension
PHARMACOECONOMICS ng Therapharma	GAMOT	PHARMACOECONOMICS ng Therapharma

Iba't-ibang mukha, kwento at estado; may mga sakit na hypertension, diabetes o mataas na cholesterol. Alaga ng gamot na abot-kaya at epektibo.

PHARMACOECONOMICS
Get well wisely.

therapharma A division of UNILAB

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon, kumunsulta sa doktor o tumawag sa hotline:
1-800-10-6-HEALTH (432584) • Direct Line: 637-4890

Cojuangco wants to sell 73-M SMC shares to pay loans

By Nelson F. Flores

LAWYERS OF BUSINESS TYcoon Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. have asked the go-signal of the Sandiganbayan to sell more than 73 million "B" shares of San Miguel Corp. held by 17 coco levy-funded companies to raise P6.05 billion to pay the loans incurred by 14 affiliate corporations.

The 73,334,357 shares represent 13.33 percent of the 550,056,996 SMC shares held by 44 companies that the government, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government, sequestered in 1986 and 1987.

Although the Sandiganbayan has lifted the sequestration order over the shares in October 2003, it prohibited Cojuangco in June 2005 from selling the disputed shares pending final determination of the ownership of the shares.

The request for authority to sell the SMC shares has been set for hearing by the Sandiganbayan first division on March 23.

Cojuangco's lawyers led by former Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza explained that the proceeds of the planned sale would be used "for the sole purpose of liquidating outstanding indebtedness."

"Unless this is done, at some point, the viability of the corporations or business enterprises themselves will be put in peril and the pledged on the shares stand to be foreclosed," Mendoza said in his motion to the court.

Nine of the coco levy-funded companies controlled by Cojuangco incurred P5.34 billion loans from the United Coconut Planters Bank, with estimated annual interest cost of P849.84 million and five others borrowed P2.68 billion from the Bank of Commerce at an interest of P327.33 million a year.

To secure the ECPB loans, three of the companies pledged 84,938,573 shares of stock they hold in SMC.

If these loans would be paid, Mendoza said the proceeds would "alleviate the critical financial situation" of UCPB. To stay viable and avoid a run, UCPB has asked for a P20 billion financial assistance from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

"Unless there is infusion of funds to strengthen its liquidity, the financial support it has thus far received from PDIC may not be adequate," Mendoza said.

Mendoza argued that the rights of ownership of the defendant corporations over the shares of stock have been impaired for 18 years despite the lifting of the sequestration order in 2003 because of the government's failure to determine whether the sequestered shares were ill-gotten or not.

"While sequestration is temporary and provisional and does not constitute divestment of title or ownership over the property sequestered, since the sequestration of the shares of stock is now on its 19th year, the sequestration has effectively impaired, if not divested, defendant corporations of their rights as owners of the shares of stock," the lawyers said.

"Under the circumstances, by virtue of which the owners of the shares or stock are unable to freely sell the shares, the sequestration of the shares of stock and the pendency of the instant case for 18 years constitute a deprivation of the property rights of the owners of the shares of stock without due process of law, both in its substantive and procedural aspects," the motion said.

SPEECHPOWER
MARCH TWO-WEEK INTENSIVE PROGRAM
ENGLISH PROFICIENCY COURSES
English Conversation Fluency
English Conversation Practice
Intensive Pronunciation Course
American Accent Training
Oral Presentation Skills
Public Speaking and Leadership Training
Vocabulary Enrichment Course
Intensive Grammar Review
Speed Reading & Comprehension
Classes begin on March 20, 2006.
Cubao 9110832 9110833
España 7357256 7357262
Taft 5213601 5255310
Buendia 8332836 8332921
www.speechpower.ph

COPIERS Sales/ Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
P11,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320, 15 CPM
BRAND NEW CANON IR 1210 BEST FOR BUS. P39,950. ONLY
P20,000. ONLY RECON RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
BRAND NEW CANON FC 298 FOR PERSONAL USE P15,000. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS.
COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
• RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT/RISO
• FAX MACHINES, ETC.
• ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

idac
AIRCONDITION
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Free Installation!
Call:2432610,2414731
Available@MC Fort, Makati & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821

TAGAYTAY EXECUTIVE VILLAGE
A minute drive to ROTUNDA / at the back of McDONALDS and OLIVAREZ PLAZA
Own a lot for as low as P12,338 /mo.
*NO DOWN PAYMENT SCHEME also available
Leading Condominium Developer (Presidential Awardee)
2005 CNBC Asia Business Leader Awards Honor Roll (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
CITYLAND 812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894
(0919) 310-8553 www.cityland.net

SC blames petitioners for delay in ruling

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY blamed petitioners questioning the legality of Presidential Proclamation 1017 placing the country in a state of national emergency and other cases involving civil liberties for the delay in the resolution of the cases.

Ismael G. Khan Jr., the court's chief information officer, assured the public that the high court has put on a fast-track all the high-profile cases involving constitutional questions, namely, PP 1017, Executive Order No. 464, and the calibrated pre-emptive response (CPR) policy.

"There is no question that the court considers the issues involved as exceedingly urgent dealing as they do with constitutional questions of transcendental importance," Khan said.

But he said that all contending parties on PP 1017 have asked for an additional five days – from the original 10 days to 15 days – to submit their respective memoranda. The court has originally set March 7 as the deadline.

Khan said the deadline is now March 22, "after which time the cases will be considered submitted for resolution."

Palace ready to take on GMA 'impeachers'

By C. O. Avendaño

AFTER TAKING ON coup plotters, Malacañang said it was ready to take on "impeachers," and expects to prevail in like manner.

Malacañang expressed confidence that like the first impeachment case filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo last year, the new impeachment move would not amount to anything.

"This second impeachment bid is already defeated even before it is hatched because of the hollowness of the claims and allegations," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

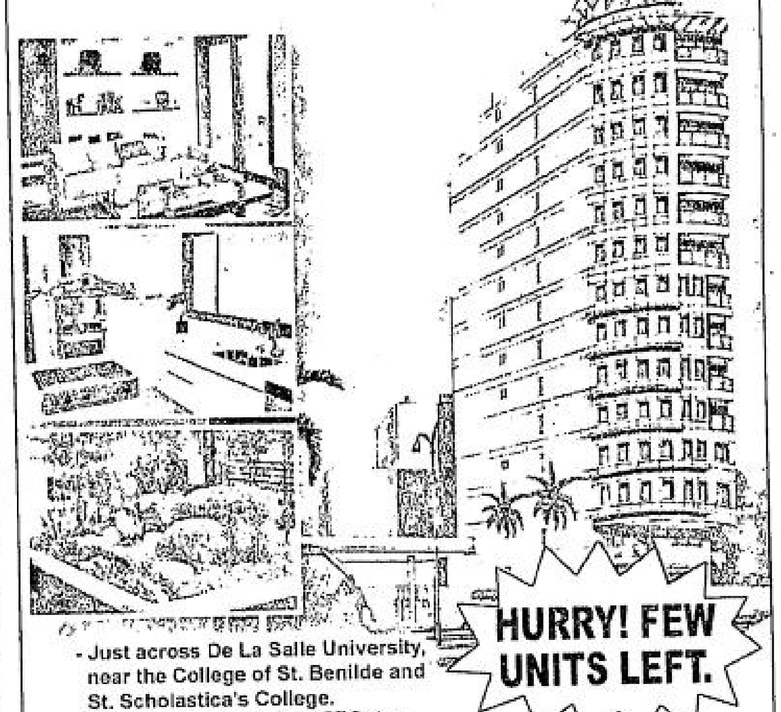
Bunye was reacting to the announcement of opposition leaders on Thursday that they were preparing to file a new impeachment case against Ms Arroyo and that this time, they would make sure that they had enough witnesses, evidence and support from fellow lawmakers to succeed in their bid.

Bunye stressed that the Palace was "prepared for any constitutional challenges to the Presidency."

"(W)e shall fight impeachment with the zeal and resolve we employed in preempting and confronting extra-constitutional attacks," the presidential spokesperson said.

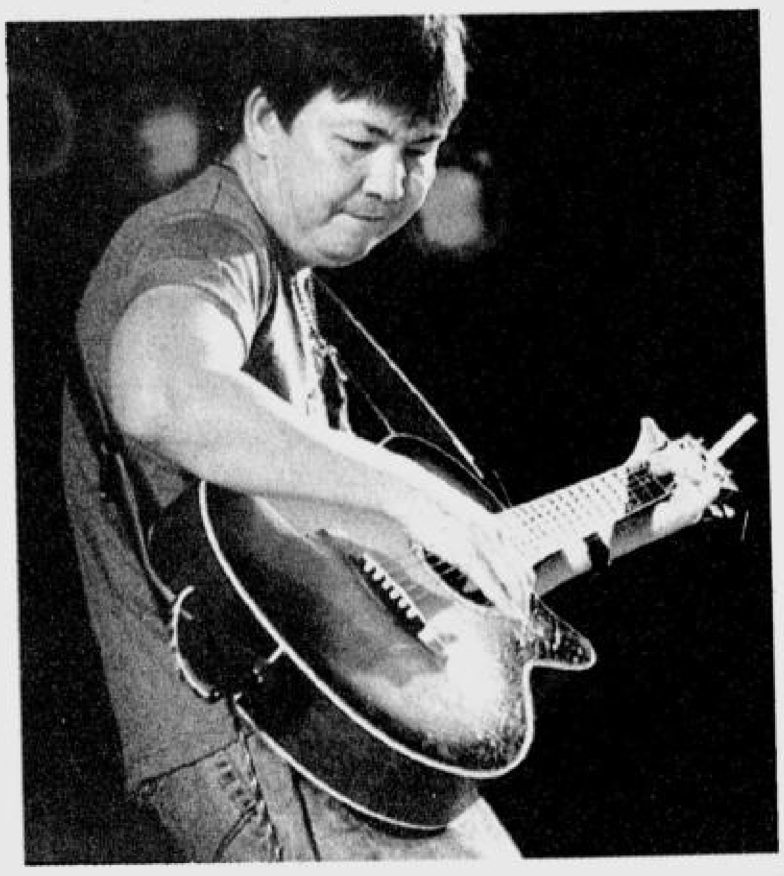
UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS LONDON CAMBERWELL COLLEGE OF ARTS CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN CHELSEA COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN LONDON COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION LONDON COLLEGE OF FASHION
www.arts.ac.uk
University of the Arts London
comprises five of the world's most acclaimed colleges for the study of art, design, fashion, communication and performing arts:
Camberwell College of Arts
Central Saint Martin College of Art and Design
Chelsea College of Art and Design
London College of Communication
formerly London College of Printing
London College of Fashion
The Programmes:
Graphics, Fashion, Jewellery, Interior Design, Theatre, Product and Industrial Design, Ceramics, Textiles, Fine Art, Conservation, Book Arts, Printmaking, Media, Animation, Film and Video, Journalism, Photography, Printing, Advertising and Marketing, Travel and Tourism, Beauty Therapy, Costume and Make-Up & more!
STUDY OPPURTUNITIES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS - LONDON Presentation
Date: 27th March 2006
Time: 5:00 pm
Venue: British Council, 10/F Taipan Place
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Student Interview Day
Date: 28th March 2006
Time: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Venue: Study International
Please get your portfolio ready and make an appointment in advance
For more information please contact:
Study International
UG36 Alfaro Place
146 L.P. Leviste Street Salcedo Village
1227 Makati City Philippines
Telephone: (63 2) 817 8090
Mobile: (63) 920 951 9657
Email: dianne@studyinternational.com.ph
Web: www.mentor.ac
BRITISH COUNCIL Philippines
STUDY INTERNATIONAL

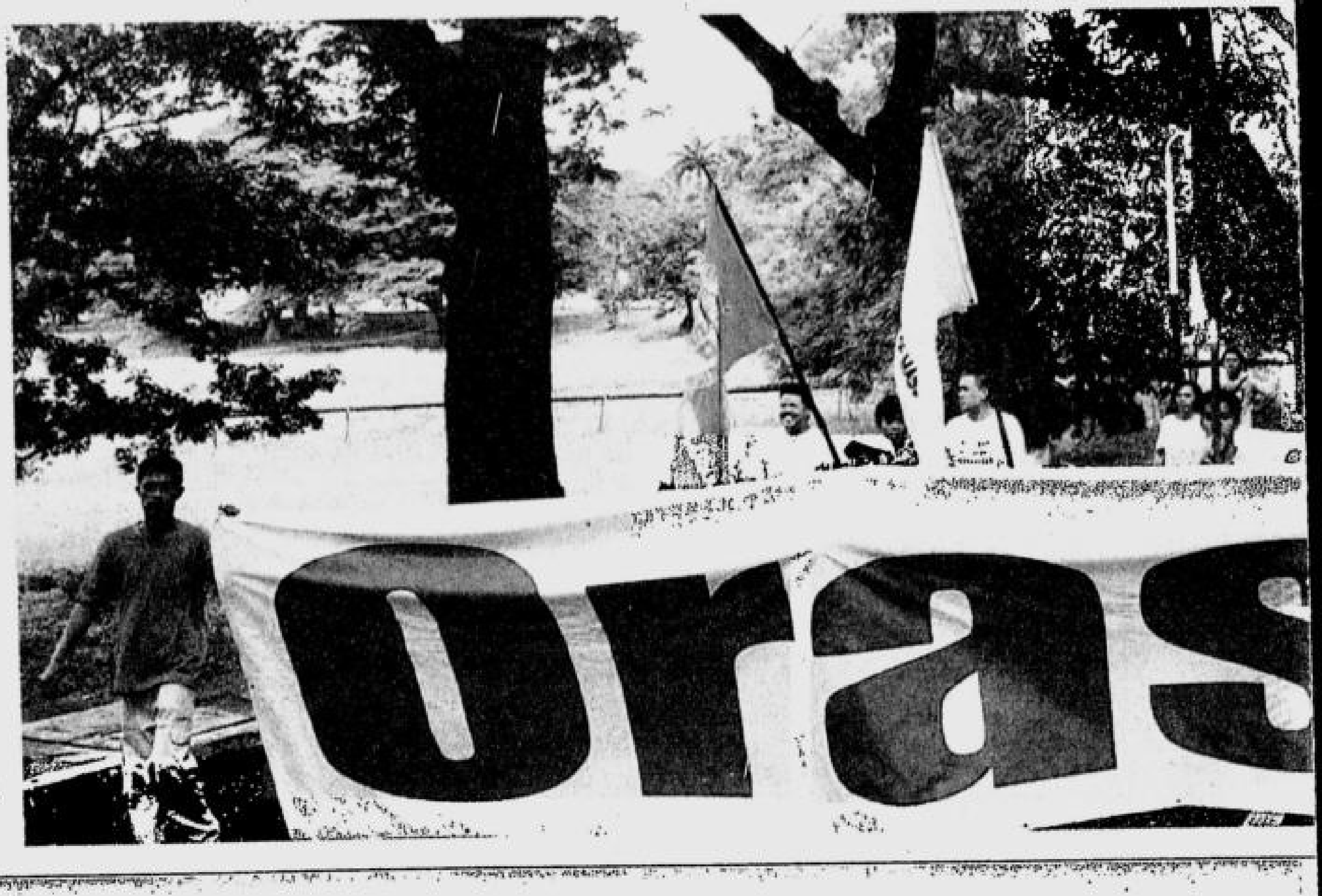
Ivy Hill RESIDENCES
TAFT AVENUE, MANILA
Experience urban living at its best.
HURRY! FEW UNITS LEFT.
- Just across De La Salle University, near the College of St. Benilde and St. Scholastica's College.
- Walking distance to Vito Cruz LRT Station
- Just a short ride to PGH, Robinson's Place and SM City, Manila.
- Excellent layout and space planning
- Reliable building management and security system
723-4014
726-4317
536-6750
Owner / Developer LIZALAND CORPORATION
Exclusive Marketing Network ROYALE HOMES
www.royalehomes.com.ph



STO DOMINGO CHURCH
TO MANILA
QUEZON AVE
G. ARANETA AVE
THE SANCTUARIUM
AGNO EXT

We're now at the top!
Top time to invest.
Don't wait for the market value to rise. Now that construction has reached the top, this is your last chance to avail of the special vault & package prices. Be part of the ethereal grandeur that is the Sanctuarium. Invest in security and peace of mind for you and your family.
The Largest & Grandest in Asia!
• Largest columbarium complex
• 29 vigil chapels with luxurious family rooms
• State-of-the art crematorium
• 1st class service from well-trained professional staff
• Breathtaking Universal Chapel & Buddhist Temple
One Legacy, One Link, One Call
SANCTUARIUM Where memories live forever
聖國 — 天人福座
739 G. Araneta Ave., cor Agno Ext., Tatalon Quezon City
Hotlines: 636-0720 or 416-CALL (416-2255)
THE EVERLIVING COMPANY, INC.





ONE OF ABOUT 30 performers at the "Never Again" concert, Jerk's frontman Chiccoy Pura (left) wows the crowd. The concert was organized by PDI columnist Conrado de Quiros. (Right) The walkout, now increasingly a regular protest feature in the UP Diliman campus, brings together teachers and students to leave their classes and denounce state repression.

RAFFY LERMA

'We defend democracy ...

From page A1

Representatives Thursday night, Mayuga said soldiers carried arms to protect the country's democratic way of life.

But members of the AFP could not speak their minds freely in public, much less join rallies, he added.

"We only practice basic rights," Mayuga said but did not elaborate.

Mayuga made these remarks after House Minority Leader Francis Escudero protested the "kid gloves" treatment on ex-Scout Rangers commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin who allegedly planned a junta to replace the Arroyo administration if the coup attempt succeeded last Feb. 24.

Interpellating Rep. Rodolfo Bacani, sponsor of the DND budget, Escudero bewailed the double standards by which the administration was implementing existing laws on rebellion or coup d'etat.

"The AFP uses kid gloves when it's one of their own but becomes harsh when other people are concerned," Escudero said.

The Sorsogon lawmaker, who led a failed bid to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2005, cited the case of Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, who had been promptly arrested and detained.

Peaceful rallies

"The President issued Proclamation No. 1017 because of a coup, or an attempted coup. We did not see or hear anything. *Sila-sila at kayu-kayo lang ang nakakaalam dyan sa sinasabi nyong kudeta* (You're the only ones who seem to know about the coup d'etat). You said there was a conspiracy between the opposition, the Left, the Right and the military to bring down the government. Yet until now, you have not filed a single case against those who attempted to grab power on Feb. 24," Escudero said, noting that Lim—the supposed brains behind the attempted coup—had yet to face charges.

Bacani—who was being fed answers by Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz who was standing beside him—said the "intention to withdraw support is a violation of the Articles of War, that is why, there is an ongoing investigation on this matter."

He insisted that "together with other acts," the intention to withdraw support from the President "could constitute coup d'etat."

Bacani said if people went to rallies "with arms and [used] these arms to attack the government; that could be a coup d'etat."

Investigating Lim, Querubin

To determine the "degree of liabilities of these individuals" the National Bureau of Investigation under the justice department was investigating Lim and Querubin "on other acts that they may have committed during that time," Bacani said.

Escudero argued that the two Marine officials should also be charged at the Office of the Ombudsman.

Their case, he said, was similar to the generals who had gone to Edsa II and withdrew their support from then President Joseph Estrada.

"The acts constituting a coup do not make a distinction as to whether or not you succeeded or failed in your attempt to grab power," Escudero said.

He reminded Cruz and the heads of the AFP service commands present at the session hall Thursday not to look at lawmakers based on their political color but as "legislators elected by the people."

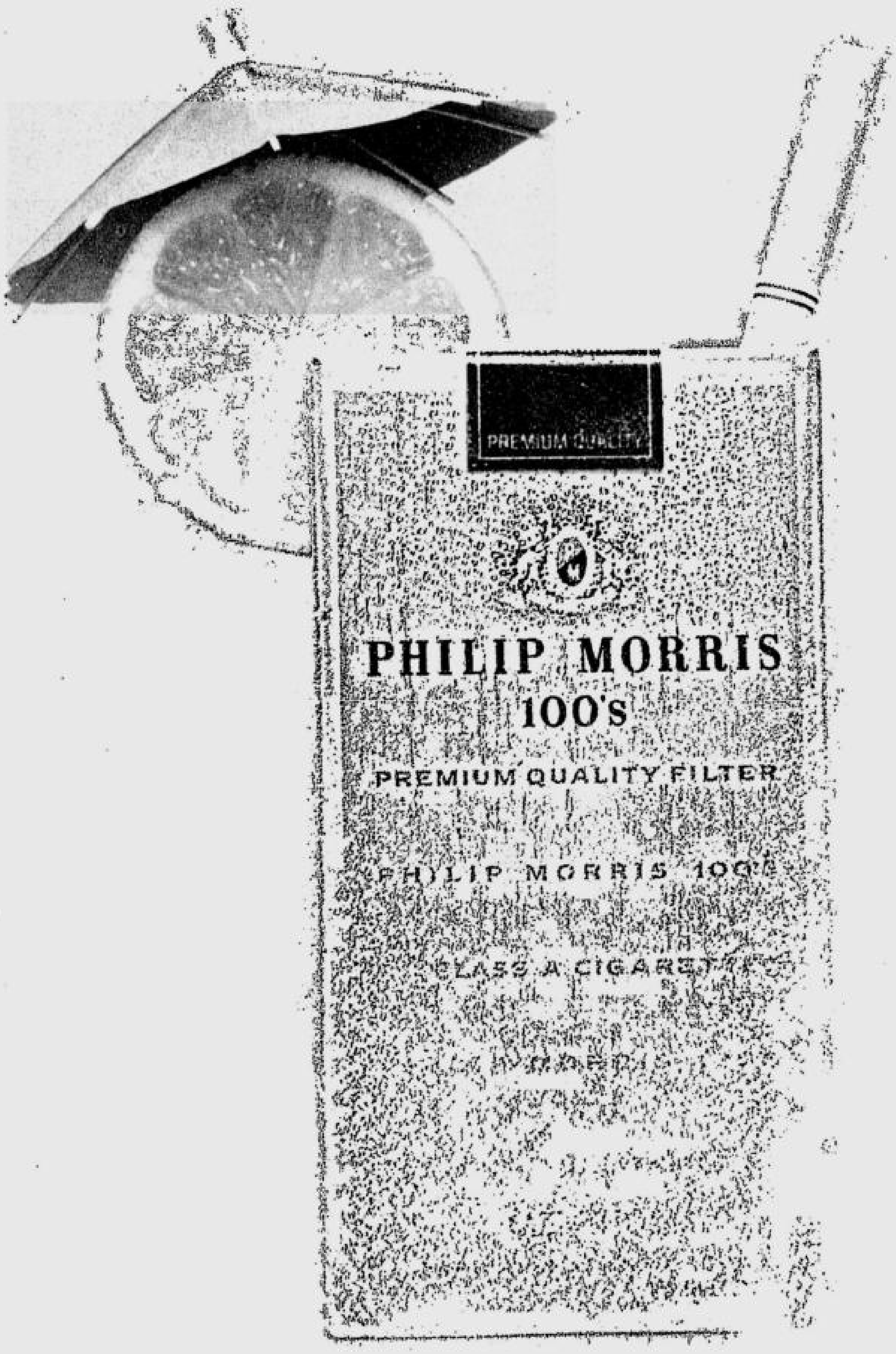
'Yes, ma'am'

He said the only way to de-politicize the military was for the soldiers to "serve without regard for color, age, beliefs," adding that the AFP was mandated by law to follow the laws passed by Congress, the policies of Congress and orders of the Commander in Chief, in pursuit of these laws and policies.

"*Hindi po namin layunin na manghasik ng lagim o manggulo* (It's not the intention of the opposition to sow chaos and disorder)," Escudero said, adding that the legal political opposition "had no capability to grab power by violent means."

The AFP should recognize the pivotal role played by a vigilant opposition in a democracy, he added.

Escudero said: "[Part of the] AFP's role [is] to protect and defend democracy... to ensure the flourishing of a vibrant opposition where we are not afraid to say, 'No, Ma'am,' if she's wrong, and not to have second thoughts to say, 'Yes, Ma'am,' or simply to keep quiet if she's right."



Government Warnin
is dangerous

Palace admits PP 1017 pulled GMA ratings down

From page A1

"they saw a rising trend of approval and acceptance" for Ms Arroyo.

"But 1017 is important, and the President acted out of necessity," Bunye said.

The fact that 65 percent of Filipinos want her to resign or to be removed from office is only "secondary" to Malacañang, he said.

Pulse Asia's survey conducted from Feb. 18 to March 4 reaffirmed the results of its October 2005 survey wherein a decided majority of Filipinos considered the resignation or removal of Ms Arroyo as the best way to solve the political crisis gripping the country.

"We have said all there is to say about the surveys. It is time to stop belaboring our opinions and buckle down to work," Bunye said, adding:

"This nation will not move forward on the weight of polls. It is a clear plan for the nation and the determination to carry it out that will make the difference."

Bunye said that amid her plummeting ratings, the President preferred to "bury herself in more work."

"She has a different priority—the economy and uplifting the lives of our people, he said.

From pan to fire

The President's allies in the House moved quickly to stem the damage.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles tried to downplay the survey results, saying nobody among Ms Arroyo's political enemies could wield the leadership reins better than she had.

In a text message sent to the INQUIRER, Nograles said the President had managed to hold on to power because those wishing to replace her were all the more "unacceptable."

"She survives because the persons who wish to replace her are not acceptable. Neither is a left communist or right military, or both, a viable option," Nograles said.

He said it would be like "jumping from the frying pan to the fire."

Isabela Rep. Rodito Albano III, a member of Ms Arroyo's party, Kampi, said the survey results were not representative of public sentiment.

Albano said that while some respondents might be against the President, the survey results were not a sufficient basis for her to resign.

"That sentiment is not enough for the people to troop to the streets. I believe the survey does not represent the general sentiment of the people. In Isabela alone, the people led by our bishops are strongly supporting the President because of her deep concern for our province," he said.

On top of that, Albano said, the majority of lawmakers were strongly supportive of Ms Arroyo.

"The majority coalition remains intact and we are as strong as ever," he said. "We believe the President deserves to finish her term, especially in light of the courageous leadership she has shown against the recent destabilization attempts."

Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, a member of the ruling Lakas, said the Pulse Asia survey was irrelevant because the presidency was not a popularity contest.

He said Ms Arroyo had "sacrificed her popularity a long time ago for the reforms needed by the government to improve the plight of the people."

Zialcita also said the survey result was "disputable."

He said the "overwhelming public support for the President" was "what frustrated past and recent attempts to unseat her."

New mandate

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the House committee on appropriations and Ms Arroyo's economic adviser, said she was creating for herself a new mandate as her administration continued to implement policies resulting in improved economic conditions and a better fiscal situation.

"Our new strategy is to accelerate economic developments to overwhelm political disturbances. And it seems to be working," he said, citing the continued strong showing of the peso against the dollar even after the purported coup plot last month.

Salceda went so far as to say that the 65 percent of Pulse Asia respondents wanting the President out of office was an improvement. (A previous acceptance rating survey showed a 70-percent negative acceptance of Ms Arroyo.)

"She must continue to improve basic services. She must create a new mandate. A good economy is a new mandate," Salceda said.

Asked if Ms Arroyo had already created for herself a new mandate as a result of the country's economic performance so far, Salceda said: "Not yet. But she's getting there."

'Listen to the people'

New mandate or not, Senate President Franklin Drilon called on Ms Arroyo to heed the clamor, step down, and pave the way for a "snap" election, if only to end the political crisis dogging her administration.

"I appeal to the President to listen to the voice of our people. And take stock of the situation," Drilon said yesterday at a press briefing in General Trias, Cavite, where the Liberal Party held its general assembly.

In a speech at the party assembly, Drilon defended the Senate's ongoing inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tape scandal from Malacañang's charge that it was being conducted "in aid of destabilization."

"Sen. [Rodolfo] Biazon is investigating the 'Hello Garci' tapes because we know that [the issue] is the root cause of our problems," Drilon said, referring to the wiretaps purportedly showing that Ms Arroyo conspired with then Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to rig the 2004 presidential polls.

Drilon, who announced the expulsion of five LP officials and members who called a "rump session" at the Manila Hotel on March 2, dared Ms Arroyo to call an election this year in order to clear doubts over her legitimacy. *(Story on Page A2.)*

"I accept the challenge [of Ms Arroyo's chief of staff Michael Defensor]. We will have an election in the Liberal Party as soon as President Macapagal-Arroyo agrees to have an election in the entire country," Drilon said, drawing cheers and applause.

"So those who have doubts in her administration can express their sentiments," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said it would be difficult for the government to sustain its initiatives with six out of 10 Filipinos believing that Ms Arroyo should resign. ***Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio***

A COLD REFRESHER.

Philip Morris 100's. Premium Taste in Menthol.

g: Cigarette smoking
to your health

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER · Vol. 21 No. 100

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Circulation Customer Service Hotline 896-6000

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **David O. Valdes**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Rating low

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO OUGHT TO talk less and listen more during her frequent trips outside Malacañang. Or at least she should expand her feedback sources outside her circle of advisers, political allies and camp followers. Instead of being grounded on reality, her public statements sound more and more like mere wishes or fantasies. Like that bold declaration she made last month about being "the best person to lead this nation through this transition."

Ms Arroyo gave the statement in anticipation of a shift to a parliamentary system through the revision of the Constitution, which isn't a sure thing, if the Senate can help it. But whether the nation is indeed in a period of transition or not, that thing about being the best is clearly a minority view. According to the latest survey of Pulse Asia, only 11 percent of Filipinos agreed with the President's self-praise. Double that number (23 percent) actually believed Vice President Noli de Castro was better. Also more people (17 percent) thought deposed President Joseph Estrada made a better leader than Ms Arroyo as did those who chose Sen. Panfilo Lacson (13 percent). Conversely, at least three times more Filipinos considered her the most unacceptable leader than those who gave that dubious distinction to actress Susan Roces, evangelist Eddie Villanueva or former President Fidel V. Ramos.

The results of the same Pulse Asia survey released earlier showed that 50 percent of 1,200 respondents disapproved of Ms Arroyo's performance in office, while only 26 percent expressed approval. The results of the survey, conducted from Feb. 18 to March 4, virtually replicated those of the survey done by another polling firm, Social Weather Stations, from Nov. 27 to Dec. 4 last year. In that earlier survey, 54 percent of 1,200 respondents said they were dissatisfied with Ms Arroyo's performance, while 24 percent said they were satisfied. The survey results secured Ms Arroyo's place as the most disliked president since 1986, according to the SWS.

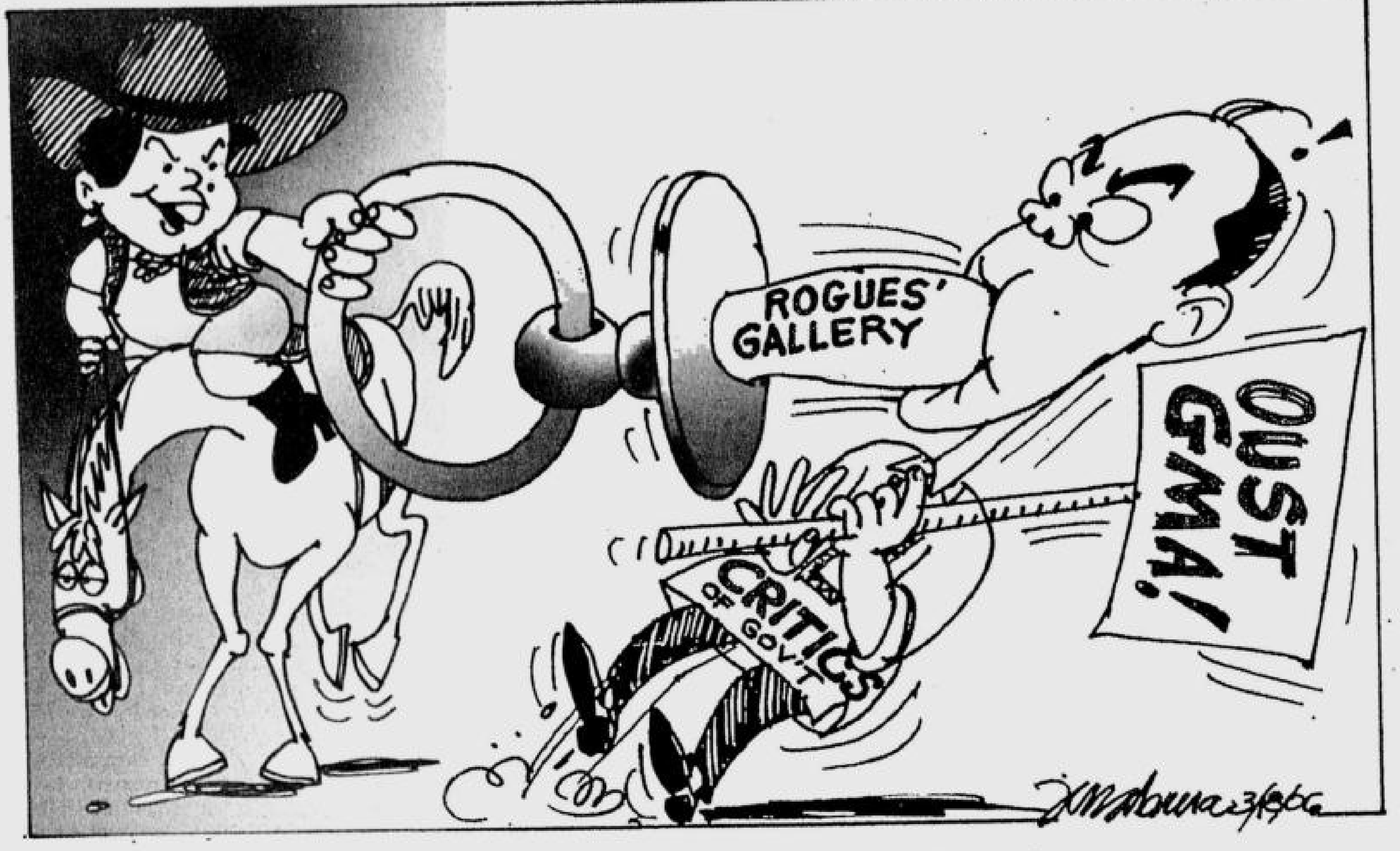
How badly Filipinos dislike the President or disapprove of the way she is running the government can be gleaned from the fact that 59 percent of the respondents in the Pulse Asia poll wanted her to resign. Another 6 percent wanted her out so much that they favored taking her out either by force or through foreign intervention. Only one out of every three people surveyed (34 percent) said keeping her in office would be most beneficial for the country.

But before military officers—both of the mutinous kind and those who claim they are now the only ones holding the nation together—think conditions are now ripe for them to act on their delusions, they should consider that 40 percent of Filipinos believed that a coup d'etat would be most inimical to the national interest. That figure is very much higher than the 12 percent who considered foreign intervention to change the government was the worst scenario.

For the President and her allies, it may be a source of comfort to note that more people (29 percent) thought her resignation would be the worst thing that could happen than those who thought it was her staying in office (19 percent). But they would be glossing over the dismaying reality that 65 percent of Filipinos wanted her out.

Still Ms Arroyo seems secure in her position—at least for now. For while the majority of Filipinos may not be satisfied with the way she has been running the government and want her out, they are not ready to act on their conviction. The many failed attempts to call out people power should prove that by now. But how long can she survive with consistently high negative ratings? More to the point, how long can she keep in her fold her fickle allies in the House of Representatives?

Opposition leaders are now telling their administration colleagues that their continued support for an unpopular President could jeopardize their own chances of reelection in 2007, which is of course a real possibility. If they can convince 30 or more administration congressmen to cast their lot with the opposition, the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo could be revived in August this year. If not, the next Congress might see a realignment of forces if the opposition can effectively bring its case against the President to a disaffected electorate.



Affirming a tyrannical rule

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ONE OF THE WORST DECISIONS RENDERED by the martial law Supreme Court was Garcia-Padilla vs. Enrile, 122 SCRA 472, written by a cherished friend of mine whose identity I will not reveal here for old times' sake. Only six of his colleagues fully agreed with him, with another five concurring only in the result, meaning they agreed with the conclusion but not the arguments. One was on official leave, and Justice Teehankee dissented.

The *ponencia* was in my view slavish in nature, stodgy in language and deficient in logic, but it was the law of the land during that regimented period and, unfortunately, is still so even now in this supposedly freer time.

Shorn of its lengthy obsequiousness, it ruled (to dispense with all its whereases and wherefores) that rebellion was a continuing crime and so did not need a judicial warrant to justify the arrest at any time of persons suspected of the offense or any connected crime. The flimsy but pretentious reason was that the suspected rebels are deemed in the actual commission of the continuing offense, or as we lawyers say, in *flagrante delicto*, whatever they might be doing at the time of their arrest.

The decision also held that suspected rebels and associated subversives should not be treated as ordinary criminals but as enemy combatants in armed conflict with the government as in a state of war. As such, they were not entitled to the usual guarantees embodied in the Bill of Rights.

I had expected that the totally indefensible doctrine would be among the first abuses to be expunged after Edsa I, but this was not to be. In fact, it was expressly affirmed and applied in the leading case of Umil v. Ramos, 187 SCRA 311, decided in 1990, after the Freedom Constitution had earlier called for the eradication of "all iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime."

The Umil Case, resolving several habeas corpus proceedings filed by suspected insurgents, justified their warrantless arrests on the same shallow ground sustained in the Garcia-Padilla Case. The reorganized Supreme Court repeated with approval that rebellion was a continuing offense that did not require the prior obtention of a warrant for the apprehension of any person suspected of the crime.

The new decision was rendered *per curiam* to spare the *ponente* from possible reprisals from the subversive groups. It was concurred in by 13 members of the Court, with only Justice Sarmiento and me dissenting. When it was received with widespread dissatisfaction, four other justices changed their minds and joined us in supporting the motion for reconsideration, I think more for self-levitation than juristic persuasions. The motion was denied just the same and the public remained unconvinced.

In my dissent, I focused on the reaffirmation of the Garcia-Padilla doctrine that our Court had quoted extensively although it was acknowledged—somewhat stealthily, I thought—only in an unobtrusive footnote. I said:

"I dissent insofar as the *ponencia* affirms the ruling in Garcia-Padilla vs. Enrile that subversion is a continuing offense, to justify the arrest without warrant of any person at any time as long as the authorities say he has been placed under surveillance on suspicion of the offense. That is a dangerous doctrine. A person may be arrested when he is doing the most innocent of acts, as when he is only washing his hands or taking his supper, or even when he is sleeping, on the ground that he is committing the 'continuing' offense of subversion.

"Libertarians were appalled when that doctrine was applied during the Marcos regime. I am alarmed that even now this new Court is willing to sustain it. I strongly urge my colleagues to discard it altogether as one of the disgraceful vestiges of the past dictatorship and uphold the rule guaranteeing the right of the people against unreasonable searches and seizures. We can do no less if we are really to reject the past oppression and commit ourselves to the new freedom.

"Even if it be argued that the military should be given every support in our fight against subversion, I maintain that the fight should be waged honorably in accordance with the Bill of Rights. I do not believe that in fighting the enemy, we must adopt the ways of the enemy which are precisely what we are fighting **against**. I submit that our more important motivation should be what we are fighting **for**."

I added on the motion for reconsideration that the suspected rebels subjected to the doctrine had not been recognized as belligerents under the laws of war and so should remain under the jurisdiction of our municipal laws and not be treated as enemy combatants.

As usual, I spoke in vain. And now Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's soldiers are making warrantless arrests against suspected rebels as permitted under the oppressive Garcia-Padilla vs. Enrile doctrine that was affirmed and applied in Umil vs. Ramos by the succeeding supposedly liberated Supreme Court. *Tuloy ang ligaya!*

Effectively 100% anti-coup?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IN THE LATEST PULSE ASIA NATIONWIDE survey, the question was asked (roughly translated): in your opinion, which of the following scenarios will best serve the national interest? Ten separate scenarios were then presented—five on President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation; two on her continuation in office; two on a coup; and one on the intervention of a foreign government.

Based on the responses, Pulse Asia reported that 59 percent of Filipinos (those who chose any of the five scenarios involving her resignation) opine that the most beneficial political scenario would be President Arroyo's resignation. For good measure, it was also suggested that the percentage of those who want Ms Arroyo out goes up to 65 percent if one adds the percentage of those who want her removed from office, either through a coup (4 percent), or the intervention of a foreign government (2 percent). Evidently, the analysts did not consider the possibility that the foreign government could intervene to keep Ms Arroyo in power.

That is one way of looking at the responses. But one can also take those responses as a basis for the following analysis:

The 10 possible "most beneficial" scenarios presented in the survey, and the percentage of those who chose them (totaling 99 percent of respondents, probably due to rounding-off errors) are as follows: (1) GMA resigns, and a special presidential election is held—16 percent; (2) GMA resigns and VP De Castro becomes president—14 percent; (3) Both GMA and De Castro resign, and the Senate president takes over until special elections are held—12 percent; (4) GMA resigns and is replaced by a "junta" until the election of a new president or prime minister—10 percent; (5) GMA resigns and De Castro temporarily leads while preparing for a new government under a new Constitution—7 percent; (6) GMA completes her term—23 percent; (7) GMA continues until the Constitution is changed and a parliamentary government is established before 2010—11 percent; (8) a coup takes place, and military and police decide who will govern—3 percent; (9) a coup takes place, and the military and police themselves take over—1 percent; and (10) a foreign government gets involved and installs in power its Filipino allies—2 percent.

From the above, one can as well say none of the 10 possibilities got a majority vote. This shows there's no clear consensus. However, scenario 6—where the President continues in office until 2010—was chosen by a significantly (statistically) higher percentage of the respondents than the other possibilities. The five next highest choices at 16, 14, 12, 11 and 10 percent respectively, were, by the way, not significantly different from one another.

Those who persist in saying that there is a "clamor" for the constitutional change should note that scenario 5 where a new constitution will bring in a new government is considered as best by only 7 percent of the respondents; and even with the added enticement that a parliamentary government takes over before 2010—scenario 7, constitutional change still gets only an additional 4 percentage points, or a total of 11 percent.

There is also a message for those who are pushing for a 1,000-day provisional government or junta. The scenario closest to that is scenario 4, where a junta takes over only for the purpose of immediately electing a new president or prime minister. That gets only 10 percent of the vote—but what is interesting is that an equal percentage of respondents (9 percent, which is not significantly different) thinks that the scenario is the most inimical political scenario!

Another important message from the Pulse Asia survey results has to do with the two coup scenarios. For those in the military/police who want to be powerbrokers, and those in the political opposition and civil society (including businessmen) who have been playing footsie with them, if not actively encouraging them, please take note: the percentage of respondents who think a coup of this kind is the most beneficial is all of 3 percent—which is, because the survey's margin of error is also 3 percent; this is like saying that the percentage of respondents in favor of the so-called "withdrawal of support" could be a big fat zero.

And for the more ambitious soldiers—those who want to wield the power themselves—the message is at least as stark: the percentage of Filipinos who are in favor of it is effectively zilch (1 percent). One, who is not aware of the margin of error, may be tempted to point out that more Filipinos prefer a foreign government getting involved in the country's affairs than a military/police takeover.

Let me summarize the alternative analysis thus: (1) there may be 59 percent of Filipinos who want GMA to resign, but until they can agree on one—instead of four or five—post-Gloria scenarios, they can kiss a successful resignation move goodbye. Their different choices get trumped by the scenario which has a significant plurality of the votes: the Gloria-stay scenario. (2) Even if all 59 percent agree on a post-Gloria scenario, effectively 100 percent of Filipinos do not want her to be removed through military intervention. (It amazes me how the anti-GMA groups criticize her use of the military, but do not seem to think anything of their own attempts to do the same).

You want her out? Do your homework toward an impeachment. And toward ensuring that the 2007 elections take place under a reformed Commission on Elections.

Korea's unicameral success

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

INTERESTINGLY, VARIOUS OPPOSITION LEADers have been busy disclaiming any role in the recent coup plot. A number of leaders now say publicly they wouldn't have accepted a role in a transition council. But I wonder if they would have said this had the plot succeeded. Implicated military officers, meanwhile, have resorted to gobbledygook to obscure their intentions. One is reminded of the adage: Victory has many fathers, while defeat is an orphan.

* * *

There is talk that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile wouldn't have opened his mouth against Sen. Jamby Madrigal if he didn't have something solid against her. The problem with Madrigal is that while she is a neophyte, she is already throwing her weight around. Few senators want to cross swords with Enrile. She found this out a bit too late.

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia recently hosted a dinner for Speaker Kim Won-ki of the South Korean National Assembly. Kim's visit coincided with his 69th birthday and De Venecia rolled out a birthday cake for him as guests sang "Happy Birthday." Interestingly, in February 2005, Kim and his wife were playing host to the De Venecias in Seoul when Gina de Venecia celebrated her birthday. At that time, recalled JDV, they were in deep mourning for their only daughter KC, and the Kims proved very comforting.

In his speech, JDV lauded South Korea's increasing investments in RP, helped no doubt by the visiting speaker. Last year, Koreans invested a total of $2 billion in such projects as power plants and electrification, electronics and the South Rail rehabilitation from Manila to Calamba. During their talks, Kim said the go-signal has been given for a $1 billion investment by Hanjin in Subic. Another Korean venture involves the laying out of pipelines in the sea to bring excess Malampaya gas from Batangas City to Mindoro.

* * *

For his part, Kim noted how much he and JDV have in common. They are about the same age and they started their careers in journalism. Rep. Roquito Ablan wryly noted another similarity: "Both are given to long-winded speeches."

Kim paid tribute to the 74,000 Filipino soldiers who fought in the Korean War 54 years ago (among them, former President Fidel Ramos and Rep. Ernesto Gidaya) and to the historic and cultural similarities between the two peoples, such as deep kinship and family ties and respect for elders. He also noted that 50,000 Koreans are now living in the Philippines, including 8,000 who are studying English. Around 500,000 Korean tourists visit here annually.

* * *

At JDV's dinner, I sat with Chung Eui-yong, one of the brightest stars in their National Assembly and chair of its foreign relations committee. We talked about South Korea's parliamentary system. In the recent debates here on Charter change, the "French model" of a strong president and a prime minister who runs the day-to-day affairs of state is always cited. But not so well known is the fact that South Korea also has this model. Chung pointed out that there is a "gentleman's agreement" between the two top officials that the president designates the functions he delegates to the PM, and this arrangement of more than 10 years has worked well.

* * *

Chung also pointed out that since the end of Japanese colonization in 1945, South Korea has continuously had a unicameral National Assembly, except for one year, when it experimented with having two chambers. In that one year, the country found the bicameral set-up too laborious and slow to respond to the need to move the Korean economy to tiger status; laws took so long to enact. It decided to return to a unicameral assembly. But Chung said it might go back to a bicameral set-up when the two Koreas are reunited.

* * *

I told Chung we have the same problem with our bicameral set-up, because of the very slow response of our Senate. Pending in that chamber are 48 national bills and 344 local bills transmitted for action by the House as of last March 9, 2006. Last year only four bills were passed by the Senate, but only one of them originated from there: the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. I also noted that the gridlock between the two chambers as well as between the executive and the legislative branches has been there since the time of Cory Aquino. To many people, the only way to break this is to have a single, larger chamber that reflects demographic realities.

I queried Chung about the reunification prospects between the two Koreas, and he said it's proceeding slowly but surely. There have been increasing interactions on the family and clan level, as more South Koreans are able to make visits near the demilitarized zone. But industrial interaction is also being stepped up. In Gaesung Industrial Park on the western coast, north of the DMZ, he said, 12 South Korean companies have started manufacturing various products, i.e., electronic components, kitchen wares, garments, etc., and they employ over 5,000 North Korean workers.

* * *

Queries have come in since I wrote about the prominent women leaders who came out with a two-page spread advocating support for the Constitution and the rule of law. The NGO that sponsored it is called Mahal Ko Bayan Ko (MKBK). Led by its convenor, Dr. Evelyn Kilayko, MKBK is composed of "God-centered, enlightened, compassionate, nation-loving people." It seeks to promote values such as love of country, good governance and good citizenship, "leading to peace, stability and prosperity for all the people." MKBK's action plan under its rallying cry, "Tama na ang gulo. Let's move forward," includes organizing workshops on good citizenship and governance practices, keeping a database on such practices from local governments, NGOs and other groups, and training MKBK members to speak at public and media forums, in order to disseminate correct values. MKBK is inviting members and it can be reached at mahalko_bayanko@yahoo.com.

Good luck and good news

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"WE MUST NOT CONFUSE DISSENT WITH DISloyalty. We must remember always that accusation is not proof and that conviction depends upon evidence and due process of law. We will not walk in fear of one another. We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason, if we dig deep in our history and our doctrine, and remember that we are not descended from fearful men—not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate and to defend causes that were, for the moment, unpopular."

These ringing words are from the movie "Good Night, and Good Luck," and they are real words broadcast on American TV and uttered by a real person: Edward R. Murrow. Murrow was one of America's most respected and renowned journalists from the 1940s to 1950s, most famous for two feats: his radio broadcasts from London during the Blitz; and his taking on Sen. Joseph McCarthy at the height of McCarthy's "witch hunt" against communists in government and other sectors, including the media.

By 1953, when McCarthy started smoking out suspected communists by going after anybody and everybody who ever associated with communists, including their spouses, and who ever read leftist publications or attended meetings of organizations suspected of being communist front organizations, he had succeeded in creating a climate of fear and suspicion not just among bureaucrats and government officials but also among entertainment figures, including media personalities.

In one meeting, preparing to do a provocative piece on McCarthy's excesses, Murrow's producer Fred Friendly tells the staff of "See It Now" that if anyone of them had even the merest link to the Left, he or she should come clean and desist from working on the show. Murrow, in a strong and credible portrayal by Davide Strathairn, looks up in weary resignation. "The terror is right here in this room," he says.

* * *

A CRITIC says that one of the points raised by the film, directed and co-written by George Clooney who also takes on the role of Friendly, is how "one man can make a difference," and in 1950s America, "Murrow was that man."

Ironically, it was TV that catapulted McCarthy and his reckless hunting expedition to national and international prominence, with live broadcasts of the hearings he presided over, with little chance given to those he persecuted to counter the charges he aired or refute them with evidence. This was because while McCarthy and his counsel were free to accuse and link those he accused to all sorts of "un-American" activities, "objective" reportage on the hearings precluded the presentation of any evidence to the contrary.

So when Murrow starts examining McCarthy's record and his shabby treatment of witnesses, the distinguished broadcaster is accused of being a "propagandist" for the Left, if not a partisan in the debate. And when "See It Now" uses out-takes of the hearings and of speeches the senator made to demonstrate his modus operandi, McCarthy lashes back not by contradicting his own words or offering his own facts, but by attacking Murrow, accusing him of having been a propagandist for the communists.

* * *

"GOOD NIGHT, and Good Luck" is not just a fascinating study of a shameful and disturbing period in American history (there was a similar witch hunt conducted here, by Filipino legislators eager to copy their American colleagues), it also offers lessons to present-day Filipino journalists and to those in government putting a squeeze on the profession and the industry.

As Murrow pointed out, "the terror is right here in this room," and that perhaps is the whole point of the so-called "list of journalists" whom the military has supposedly compiled incriminating evidence against and is getting ready to arrest. Whether the list contains seven names, 11 names or 100 names, it might as well be a thousand names, for until government releases the names of the journalist-suspects and details the evidence against them, all of us in the media feel equally at risk. And that may be another point: to sow so much terror among our ranks that we dare not provoke the Arroyo administration unduly lest it bring down its wrath on us.

A government official, interviewed over ANC on the "guidelines" supposedly to be issued by the police on "responsible" journalism, pooh-poohed the prevailing fear within the industry by pointing out that "you (journalists) were not intimidated at all, were you?" The amazing chutzpah of the man! His bosses' attempts to muzzle free speech having proven useless, he would now use the media's defiance against ourselves, saying that there was no threat at all. Well, there certainly were threats—veiled and actual, as the raid on the Tribune offices and the sudden resurrection of old libel cases prove—but to the credit of media workers and media owners, they did not allow fear or alarm to stop them from doing their jobs.

* * *

OUR country and the media here face not a single foe—as Murrow did in confronting McCarthy—but an entire government machinery bent on controlling "unfriendly" media but still desiring to nurture a democratic image.

So we see these days the thrust and parry of government factotums, crying "sedition" one moment, then granting exclusive interviews the next; sic-ing the police on media outlets, then "inviting" media bigwigs to dialogues and consultations.

But as Murrow and his intrepid staff proved in "Good Night, and Good Luck," all responsible journalists need do is to ferret out the truth and present it in a reasonable, balanced manner.

What ultimately did Murrow in was not McCarthy or government pressure, but the pressure of the "market," which wanted TV to provide entertainment and not controversial public affairs shows. That, too, is a lesson we need to be aware of.

The media war on terror

WORLD VIEW

Donald Rumsfeld

"MORE THAN HALF OF THIS BATTLE IS TAKING place on the battlefield of the media, [for] we are in a media battle in a race for the hearts and minds of [Muslims]." The speaker was not some public relations executive, but Osama bin Laden's chief lieutenant, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Terrorists have skillfully adapted to fighting wars in today's media age but, for the most part, America and the governments of the other democracies have not. Consider that the violent extremists have their own "media relations committees" aimed at manipulating elite opinion. They plan and design headline-grabbing attacks, using every means of communications to intimidate and break the collective will of free people.

They know that communications transcend borders, and that a single news story, handled skillfully, can be as damaging to our cause—and as helpful to theirs—as any military attack. And they are able to act quickly with relatively few people, and with modest resources compared to the vast, expensive bureaucracies of democratic governments.

Today, we are fighting the first war in the era of e-mail, blogs, blackberries, instant messaging, digital cameras, the Internet, mobile phones, talk radio and 24-hour news. In Tunisia, the largest newspaper has a circulation of roughly 50,000 in a country of 10 million people. But even in the poorest neighborhoods, you see satellite dishes on nearly every balcony or rooftop.

A few years ago, under Saddam Hussein, an Iraqi could have his tongue cut out if he was found in possession of a satellite dish or used the Internet without government approval. Today, satellite dishes are ubiquitous in Iraq as well.

Regrettably, many of the news channels being watched through these dishes are hostile to the West. Media outlets in many parts of the world often serve only to inflame and distort—rather than to explain and inform. While al-Qaida and extremist movements have used this forum for many years, further poisoning the Muslim public's view of the West, we in the West have barely even begun to compete.

We saw this with the false allegations of the desecration of a Koran last year. First published in a weekly news magazine, the story was then posted on websites, sent in e-mails and repeated on satellite television and radio stations for days before the facts could be discovered. That false story incited deadly anti-American riots in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The United States military, appropriately and of necessity, took the time needed to ensure that it had the facts before responding that the charges were untrue. In the meantime, innocent lives were lost.

But we have begun to adapt. In Iraq, for example, the US military, working closely with the Iraqi government, has sought non-traditional means to provide accurate information to the Iraqi people. Yet this has been portrayed as "buying news." The resulting explosion of critical press stories then causes everything—all activity, all initiative—to stop. This leads to a "chilling effect" among those serving in the military public affairs field, who conclude that there is no tolerance for innovation.

Consider for a moment the vast quantity of column inches and hours of television devoted to the allegations of detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib. Compare that to the volume of coverage and condemnation associated with, say, the discovery of Saddam Hussein's mass graves, which were filled with hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis.

Free governments must make communications planning a central component of every aspect of this struggle. Indeed, the longer it takes to put a strategic communications framework into place, the more the vacuum will be filled by the enemy.

There are nonetheless signs of modest progress. Soon after the devastating earthquake in Pakistan, a public affairs team was deployed with our sizable military forces in the disaster area. They worked to help focus media attention on America's commitment to help the Pakistani people. Public opinion surveys conducted by private groups before and after the earthquake suggest that attitudes in Pakistan regarding the United States changed dramatically because of this new awareness.

Government public affairs and public diplomacy efforts are slowly beginning to reorient staffing, schedules and bureaucratic culture to engage the full range of today's media.

Still, government must develop the institutional capability to anticipate and act within the same news cycle. That requires instituting 24-hour press operations centers and elevating Internet operations and other channels to the status of traditional 20th-century press relations. It will require less reliance on the traditional print media, just as the US publics and the world are relying less on newspapers.

This also will mean embracing new ways of engaging people throughout the world. During the Cold War, institutions such as Radio Free Europe proved to be valuable instruments. We need to consider the possibility of new organizations and programs that can serve a similarly valuable role in the War on Terror.

We are fighting a war in which the survival of our way of life is at stake. And the center of gravity of that struggle is not just the battlefield. It is a test of wills and it will be won or lost in the court of global public opinion. While the enemy is skillful at manipulating the media and using the tools of communications to their advantage, we have an advantage as well: truth is on our side, and, ultimately, truth wins out. ***Council on Foreign Relations and Project Syndicate***

Donald Rumsfeld is US secretary of defense

Anniversary of nothing

YOUNG BLOOD

Therese Anne Lim

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY JUMBLED-UP THOUGHTS ALWAYS FIND SOME CLARITY when I, more morose than usual, sit down and ponder the meaning of another birthday.

Birthdays are regimented; they do not delay the inevitable, nor prolong what you wish to forget. They are mere 24-hour increments of revelry or revulsion, depending on where you are in life.

Each year, mine is marked by anxiety. There is the constant pressure to carouse with a nice dinner and perhaps a few drinks. Superficial rituals for a not-so-superficial day. And instead of reflecting on how much time I have left in this world and how I may leave a larger imprint upon it, I am usually left contemplating the finer details of salmon gravlax and how it fits with the rest of the night's celebratory menu.

But this year is a little different. I find myself caught between two worlds of, well, everything. I am neither here nor there, neither a child nor a grownup. Tonight I am sitting in a dorm room 8,000 miles from the hospital room I was born in, turning an age that is no cause for celebration in any of the three cultures I relate to. I am no longer 18, where in the Philippines, I would be presented to society in a debutante ball. I am not yet 21, when in America, or at least in the ever-so-drunken college towns of America, I will celebrate my birthday with the requisite number of tequila shots. I have not yet graduated college, which, in the Chinese mind-set, marks the time when I can finally be productive by joining the family business and raking in the cash.

I am 20, a multiple of 10 but an anniversary of nothing.

But I am not as desolate as I sound. After all, I am not hard pressed to find other days that carry much more personal gravitas than my birthday. Coming from a family that expected nothing more from me than a decent showing in school and a career in business someday, I'm surprised I've made it this far.

There was no eureka moment that formed my to-do list for the next 10 years. I did not start preparing for my Scholastic Aptitude Test in Grade 2 (I did not even know what the term meant until sophomore year of high school). I did not keep telling myself that the Philippines was too small for my ambitions. I had no large goals during my childhood, except perhaps some desire to see the world, for which my unchanging location was appropriate anyway. I prayed to God every night to make me an architect, because that was what my father kept telling me I should do, until I somehow found the guts to tell him years later that I could not draw to save my life and had absolutely no interest in calculating the structural strength of steel beams. On the whole, I was a naïve kid who lived in her own world, but who peripherally absorbed the world that was laid out before her.

Looking back at my formative years, I am grateful for the imagined edifice that was constructed around my mind. Like thin, billowing sheets of well-hung drapery, it let the air in while maintaining the illusion of the interior. It allowed me the freedom to explore two parallel universes: one that fed me knowledge, and another that taught me to use it. I recall reading an old book on Greek mythology out of boredom when I was 7, and being enamored of it by page 200. Daedalus and Icarus, Pygmalion and Galatea, Zeus and Leto, Castor and Pollux—their stories awoke in me a sense of possibility. I could fly, or come alive with a kiss, or have an affair with a god and give birth to twins, or even be immortalized in the stars.

Notwithstanding the clear line between reality and fiction, I took to heart the plotlines of many novels. They showed me what Paris and Vegas were like at night at the same time that they taught me empathy and respect for diverse individuals. They also impressed upon me the advantage of—nay, the need for—self-expression. I wrote as much as I read, and what I read influenced my writings deeply.

It was how I grew up. You could tell how much I matured (or degenerated) each year by how many more journal entries took on the burden of psychoanalysis.

But I am not the tortured sort who lives for art and the ruminations of the soul alone. I write deeply for I care deeply. I enjoy life carelessly because many things in it are shallow. Such as birthdays, which mechanically command ceremony, even in the face of artifice.

Next Wednesday, I will eat cake, drink and be merry, because that is what the world expects. But I would be a fool to say that those expectations have not formed part of my core. After all, I live in between two worlds, with one foot firmly in each. When I blow my candles out, it will not be out of a sense of obligation, but a sense of attachment, however uneasy, to sensibility. I have been programmed to relish the inchoate, temporal traditions of this plane. And with a frosting-laced glass of wine in my hand next week, there's no telling where I will slur my way to next.

Therese Anne Lim, 20, is a junior at Yale University, double majoring in Economics and Political Science.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Transmogrified

"The violations of the Constitution have transmogrified into ordinariness. There is no more righteous anger. The protests, even in the Senate, have become mechanical reactions."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo

Grim reminder

"How has its management and staff mustered the gall to continue the program that reminds everyone of the heaps of dead bodies and hundreds of injured people whose lives have changed after the tragedy?"

—VACC (Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption) founding chair Dante Jimenez on the reopening of the TV show "Wowowee"

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

When press freedom is lost

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS OUR sacred right. It is only through a free press that we are able to discern the truth. And as the Good Book says, "The truth shall set us free."

A regime that is afraid of the truth would endeavor to do everything to keep the people in darkness. In authoritarian regimes, truth is always the first casualty. Despots unleash violence first against the mass media, knowing fully well the power of the pen to awaken the people from their ignorance and to mobilize them into asserting their right to information and the truth.

Attacks on press freedom by the State are a form of state terrorism of the highest order. The state was created to promote, preserve and protect the inviolable rights of its citizens and not to trample on them in the guise of protecting the State.

The arrest of a columnist, the police raid on an editorial office, the deployment of military or police troops in broadcast media offices, among others, are serious violations of press freedom.

But the more serious and insidious attack on press freedom is the creation of a climate of fear, forcing journalists to practice self-censorship. More than forcing journalists to do a "balancing act" with their craft, self-censorship impairs the person's sense of right and wrong. Journalists who succumb to real or imagined threats eventually lose not only their livelihood but, more regretfully, their self-respect and self-worth.

Thomas Jefferson centuries ago wrote a timely advice: "The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right, and use it. If left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate for a moment to prefer the latter."

—FLORANGEL ROSARIO-BRAID,
RAMON R. TUAZON,
ANN C. LOPEZ,
Asian Institute of Journalism
and Communication,
Unit 902 Annapolis
Wilshire Plaza,
Annapolis St., Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila

Ocampo et al back to hills? Tell it to the Marines

HIDING FROM THE LAW IN THE sanctuary of Congress, Satur Ocampo threatened to go back to the mountains and take up arms against the government. As if on cue, Crispin Beltran and Teddy Casiño issued the same threat to authorities.

Going back to armed struggle? Did they ever renounce it in the first place? Did amnesty and their entry to the political mainstream result in the abandonment of the Maoist ideology?

Ocampo and his Bayan Muna ideologues, along with their brethren in Anakpawis and Gabriela, would like us to believe that they are not the communists that we know them to be. Just because they do not brandish firearms now does not mean that they have given up on armed struggle as the primary means to achieve political and societal change. Entering the democratic system is simply just another step toward the communists' fatalistic obsession with their national democratic revolution.

These communist fronts parading as party-list groups condemn the rebellion charges against them even though they are being given every opportunity to defend themselves by the government. The same cannot be said of the kangaroo courts of their New People's Army, which the honorable human rights/justice advocates have curiously never found the time and the passion to condemn or speak against.

Bourgeois Rep. Francis Escudero gave them support by saying that Edsa I invited progressives and communists to join the mainstream, and that these recent actions of government will drive them back to the "underground." Surprising indeed that this sympathy is coming from an icon of the "*naghaharing-uri, panginoong may lupa*" class, but not so, after all, when you realize that Sorsogon is really one big safe haven for the NPA.

I sincerely hope that Ocampo and his comrades will make good their threat to rejoin the NPA. But for all the rhetoric and theatrics, I know they are hollow statements because CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines) chair Jose Ma. Sison is not about to allow his stooges to let go of hundreds of millions in pork barrel funds.

—ISABELO GATMAITAN,
isagatmaitan@yahoo.com.ph

Loyalty to the Constitution, not to a dictator

I AM APPALLED BY THE TRAMpling of civil rights of the Filipino people on the 20th anniversary of People Power I by a paranoid Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. She's worse than the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, showing callousness by issuing Proclamation 1017, a clone of Marcos' Proclamation 1081.

She must be so scared that her days as an illegitimate occupant of Malacañang are numbered that she had to resort to a very undemocratic means to cling to power. I'm equally disappointed with the military's blind loyalty. The soldiers should be true to their vow to defend the Philippine Constitution.

I hope these men and women in uniform will uphold democracy and boot out this dictator and impostor. Let the will of the people reign!

—FLOR LACANILAO,
frlacanilao@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Edsa: a place in our hearts

THE LIFELESS, MALACAÑANG-initiated celebration of Edsa I's 20th anniversary showed the true nature of the Arroyo administration. To President Macapagal-Arroyo and her officials, Edsa I is a vague historical concept, a past event shelved in the past.

I was 14 years old when the People Power Revolution of 1986 broke out. My grandmother told me and my cousins never to go to Edsa, where a large crowd had gathered, because it was crawling with communists and troublemakers. While my cousins, with usual youthful temerity, disobeyed the old one, I sat and watched Edsa on TV—the huge crowd massed on the streets, blocking tanks.

Before that, Edsa was, to me, just a big, wide street. After that, Edsa became a cause of jubilation and a memorable event of songs, photos, hands and flowers and barbed wire.

College days opened my eyes to a lot of things that were happening around me: student activism, the US bases issue, elections. Edsa I at this point became a window that afforded me a better view of reality. It also had become a milestone marking the triumph of good over evil.

In Edsa II, I stayed out in the streets for a couple of nights, stirred by deep feelings of patriotism. On the final day, Ms Arroyo made a promise. I also made a promise, along with millions of Filipinos that we will never allow an immoral and corrupt leadership to lead us again. But again, we have been deluded by the people we had trusted.

To Ms Arroyo, Edsa may just be a street. To me and to most of my generation, and to millions of Filipinos, it is a place in our hearts.

—REGGIE DE LOS REYES,
reggie4j@gmail.com

Tan has done so much for PAL pilots

THIS REFERS TO THE COLUMN ("What makes pilots special?") of Solita Monsod. (PDI, 3/11/06) Allow us to set the record straight:

1. Over the past few years, Philippine Airlines (PAL) has taken significant steps to address the needs of our pilots, among them: improved pilots' retirement package by 50 percent; use of part of their sick leaves, a privilege lost in the wake of the 1998 illegal strike; trip-pass benefits even without completing the required years of service; an incentive for technical stops on international flights, a benefit previously given only to the cabin crew; the Pilots Retirement Plan and the Pilots Occupational Disability Plan.

Also, PAL has asked the government to grant our pilots an income-tax holiday to match the tax-free status enjoyed by their Filipino colleagues in foreign airlines. For the long term, PAL has ordered five more trainer aircraft costing $1.5 million, which will enable us to double the output of new pilots to 56 a year.

2. The courts, not the Estrada administration, declared the 1998 pilots strike "illegal." The Court of Appeals, in its August 2001 decision, held the strikers to have lost their employment status with PAL. The Supreme Court upheld PAL's position in January 2002.

3. Since 1999, PAL has given yearly increases to pilots: base pay—35 percent; productivity pay for those with flying time of 60 hours and below—227 percent; for those exceeding 60 hours—161 percent.

4. The gross monthly salary (plus allowances) of our captains ranges from $4,000 to $7,000. Missed out in Monsod's computation were the 20 percent contribution to the retirement fund and the 5 percent contribution to the disability fund.

Our medical benefits for them and their familes are among the most generous in the industry. In all, the total remuneration package for our senior pilots is not much off the $9,000-per-month (at the low end) offer of foreign carriers.

Consider, too, the unquantifiable social costs of taking overseas jobs, such as the pain of separation from family. Also, the job contract is for 3 to 5 years only—enough time for the foreign carriers to train their local pilots—after which the Filipino hires are no longer needed and they no longer have their previous career jobs to fall back on.

Monsod said that Dr. Lucio Tan treats our pilots "like dirt." Considering all the initiatives Dr. Tan has taken for our pilots—a vastly improved benefits package; yearly increases in pay; grant of additional incentives; a secure career with the national flag carrier—such statement was most unkind.

Our company cares deeply about all our employees and it is our policy to provide them the best compensation and benefits package within our capacity, commensurate with their hard work and dedication to duty.

—JAIME J. BAUTISTA,
president and
chief operating officer,
Philippine Airlines,
P.O. Box 1344, Makati City

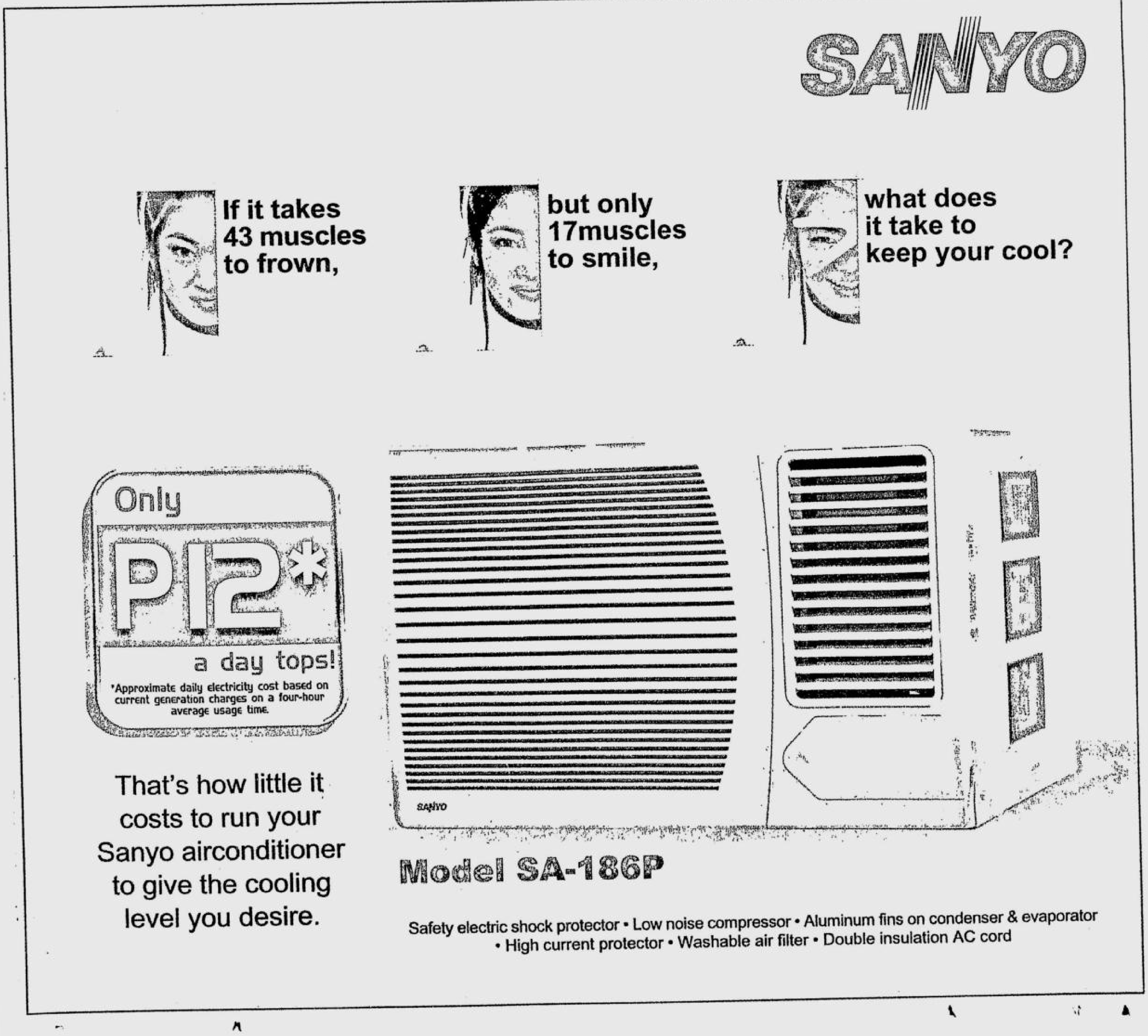
An oasis in a desert of political columns

I FEEL SAD THAT BAMBI HARper is no longer writing a column for the INQUIRER. I learned many things from her columns and I shared these in many forums I've been into, as well as with my children. In a desert of political columns, hers served as an oasis.

Her columns were comforting to read as they reminded me of our past. I am a firm believer of the saying, "You should know where you come from in order to reach your destination." I hope to read her columns again.

May I take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation of Bambi Harper's columns. God bless her and good luck.

—ORLY BUNAG,
ogbunag@yahoo.com


SANYO
If it takes 43 muscles to frown,
but only 17muscles to smile,
what does it take to keep your cool?
Only P12* a day tops!
SANYO
Model SA-186P

*Approximate daily electricity cost based on current generation charges on a four-hour average usage time.

That's how little it costs to run your Sanyo airconditioner to give the cooling level you desire.

Safety electric shock protector • Low noise compressor • Aluminum fins on condenser & evaporator • High current protector • Washable air filter • Double insulation AC cord

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 15 23 24 30 45
₱30,007,078.20

ONLY THE LATEST LOTTO RESULTS ON YOUR CELFONE
Text LOTTO to 299
Open to all SMART subscribers. Only P2.50 per message.

EZ2
27 8

SUERTRES
7 1 2

FOUR DIGIT
8 5 0 2
(In exact order)

Another Luisita union leader slain

Victim was 14th activist murdered in hacienda

By Tonette Orejas and Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Blanche Rivera
in Manila

TARLAC CITY—A LEADER OF THE UNITED LUISIta Workers Union (Ulwu) at the Cojuangco family-owned sugar estate here was shot dead yesterday in Concepcion town, reports from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the police said.

Tirso Cruz, 33, an Ulwu director, was the first leader of the union slain following the resolution of the labor strike at the estate in December last year, according to Roman Polintan, Bayan chair in Central Luzon.

The union represents more than 5,000 farm workers on whose behalf the government agreed to cancel the stock distribution option (SDO) scheme and transfer to them the ownership of more than 5,000 hectares at the Hacienda Luisita.

Cruz's murder came five months after the slaying of Ricardo Ramos, president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu), in October last year.

Polintan said Cruz was walking home at 12:30 a.m. when two men aboard a motorcycle shot him in Barangay Pando in Concepcion, 25 km south of this city.

The slaying took place after the victim, also a barangay *kagawad* (village council member) of Pando and a local coordinator of the party-list group Anakpawis, left a chapel where a *pabasa* (Lenten reading of the Passion of Christ) began on Friday.

Rene Galang, Ulwu president, said Cruz had been receiving death threats since he joined the Hacienda Luisita strike in November 2004.

Polintan cited the role of Cruz in the campaign of Ulwu to seek the pullout of soldiers from 10 villages within the Hacienda Luisita.

Cruz, he said, also led protests against the construction of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway in areas that are tilled for rice and other crops.

In a statement, Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said "extra-judicial killings (have become) a state policy ... and (have even) intensified."

The statement condemned "this latest act of brutality against the legitimate leaders of the hacienda people."

The KMP also blamed the presence of government soldiers and militiamen inside the hacienda for the rash of violence there.

Col. Preme Monta, spokesperson of the military's Northern Luzon Command, however, denied the involvement of government soldiers in the killing.

Five leaders of various militant groups in Tarlac have been killed since December 2004, reports said.

Among them were farmer-leader Marcelino Beltran, Tarlac City Councilor Abel Ladera, Aglipayan priest William Tadena, Bayan Muna coordinator Rolando Mariano and Bayan Muna Tarlac secretary general Florante Collantes.

Polintan said Bayan's records showed that 49 political activists were killed while seven others went missing in Central Luzon in 2005.

In the first quarter of 2006, 18 were killed and six were abducted.

Cruz's brother, Ernesto, said the gunmen continued shooting at Cruz as he lay dying on the pavement.

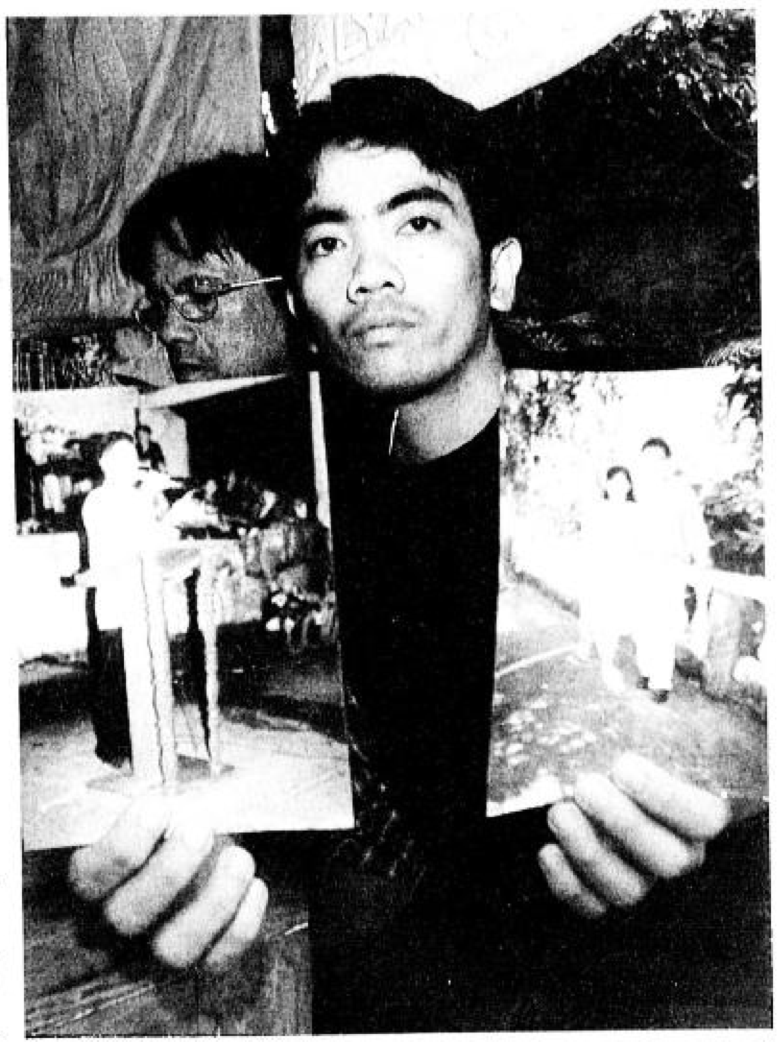
The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said a Baby Armalite was used in the killing.

"The military has accused him of being an NPA," Ernesto said in a press conference in Quezon City yesterday.

He said military men have been visiting their home since the picket against the Luisita management started, asking Cruz to admit to being a surrendered NPA, but his brother refused to sign any papers.

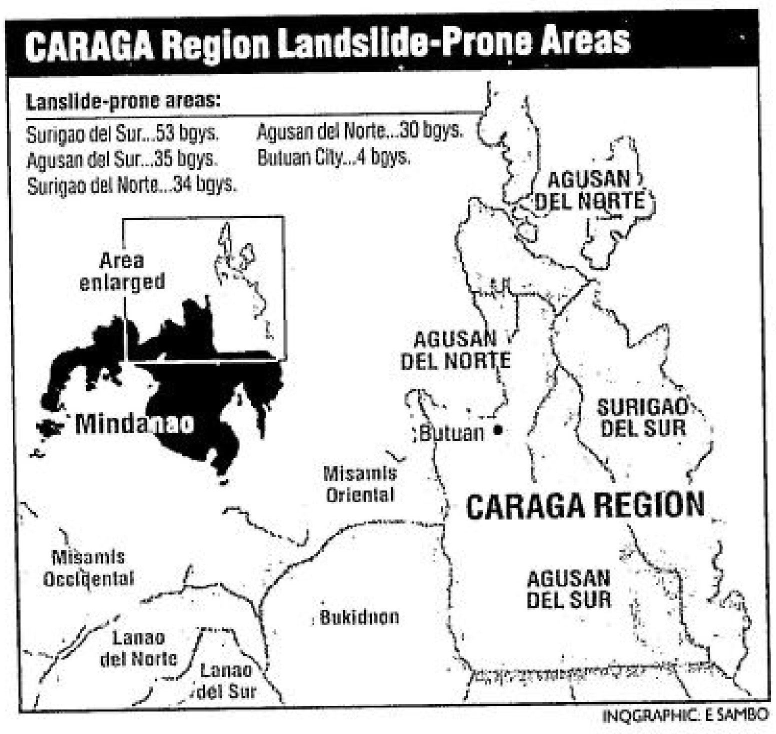
Ernesto said he cried for help but nobody from the military detachment just beside their house came out. Not even members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), which he said, were plenty in their area, responded.

"It was as if they did not hear anything, which is impossible, because the shots were so loud, and we were shouting," Ernesto said.



ERNESTO Cruz, Tirso's brother, holds a picture of the 14th victim of what leftist leaders said was a continuing campaign of annihilating militant activists in Hacienda Luisita. RAFFY LERMA/PDI PHOTO

156 villages in Caraga region listed danger areas



INQGRAPHIC: E SAMBO

BUTUAN CITY—THE MINES AND Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in the Caraga region reported that at least 156 barangays in the region are in danger of landslides.

Romy Dalodado, chief geologist of the MGB-Caraga, said the discovery was made following a recent geo-hazard mapping and survey that the MGB conducted in the region's four provinces and three cities.

"These areas were found susceptible to landslides because they are located in steep slopes and (have) unstable rock and soil formations," Dalodado told reporters here.

Dalodado said the province of Surigao del Sur has the most landslide-prone areas with 53 barangays, followed by Agusan del Sur with 35. Surigao del Norte has 34 landslide-prone villages, Agusan del Norte with 30 and Butuan City has four barangays.

He said that ground cracks were detected in Barangay Tungao here, and in Barangays Sto. Niño and Poblacion in Jabonga town, Agusan del Norte.

Similar ground cracks were also discovered in Mt. Hagimit in Placer town and in Barangay Budlingin in Mainit town, both in Surigao del Norte.

Dalodado said the MGB has already asked local officials of the areas tagged as dangerous to relocate those living in the landslide-prone areas.

"Honestly, people living near these areas face potential risks of landslide especially during periods of heavy rains," he warned.

He said the MGB has put in place a device that would monitor rock movements in the said areas.

Dalodado also raised concerns over illegal logging and small-scale mining operations in remote areas of the region, saying these activities increase the chances of landslides occurring.

"The LGU must act to contain man-made activities like deforestation due to logging and small-scale mining because these enhance the occurrence of landslides," he said. ***Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Be not afraid,' N. Vizcaya bishop tells visiting Gloria

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—Be not afraid.

Bishop Ramon Villena of the Catholic diocese here gave this advice to President Macapagal-Arroyo and egged her to continue leading the country, amid the political turmoil that her administration is going through.

Villena, who gave the advice during a Thanksgiving Mass for his 67th birthday at the Bayombong Cathedral here, borrowed the expression from the group of the same name that has been calling for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

"Be not afraid. I know that you are a woman who has a big faith. Continue to trust the Lord because the Lord is the one who will make you strong," he said.

Trying to hold back tears, Villena said he was deeply touched by the President's presence on his birthday, despite her "very hectic schedule."

"It (Ms Arroyo's presence) is giving me the strength in all these frustrations I have in one way or another," he told 2,000 well-wishers during the Mass.

Strength

Villena said he and the Catholic faithful in his diocese lauded the President for trying to reach out, "not only to those who support you, but even to those who criticize you, those who do not have the same mind as you have."

"We pray that the political turmoil that your government is experiencing will soon recede under your effective, faithful leadership through the unified effort of all the line agencies of the government and the people themselves," he added.

It was the second birthday celebration of a bishop that Ms Arroyo attended in one week. On Thursday, she was also at the birthday celebration of Archbishop Paciano Aniceto in Pampanga, her home province.

In her three-minute speech, Ms Arroyo said coming to the province for the bishop's birthday would have been difficult, owing to her tight schedule, highlighted by the ongoing state visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark.

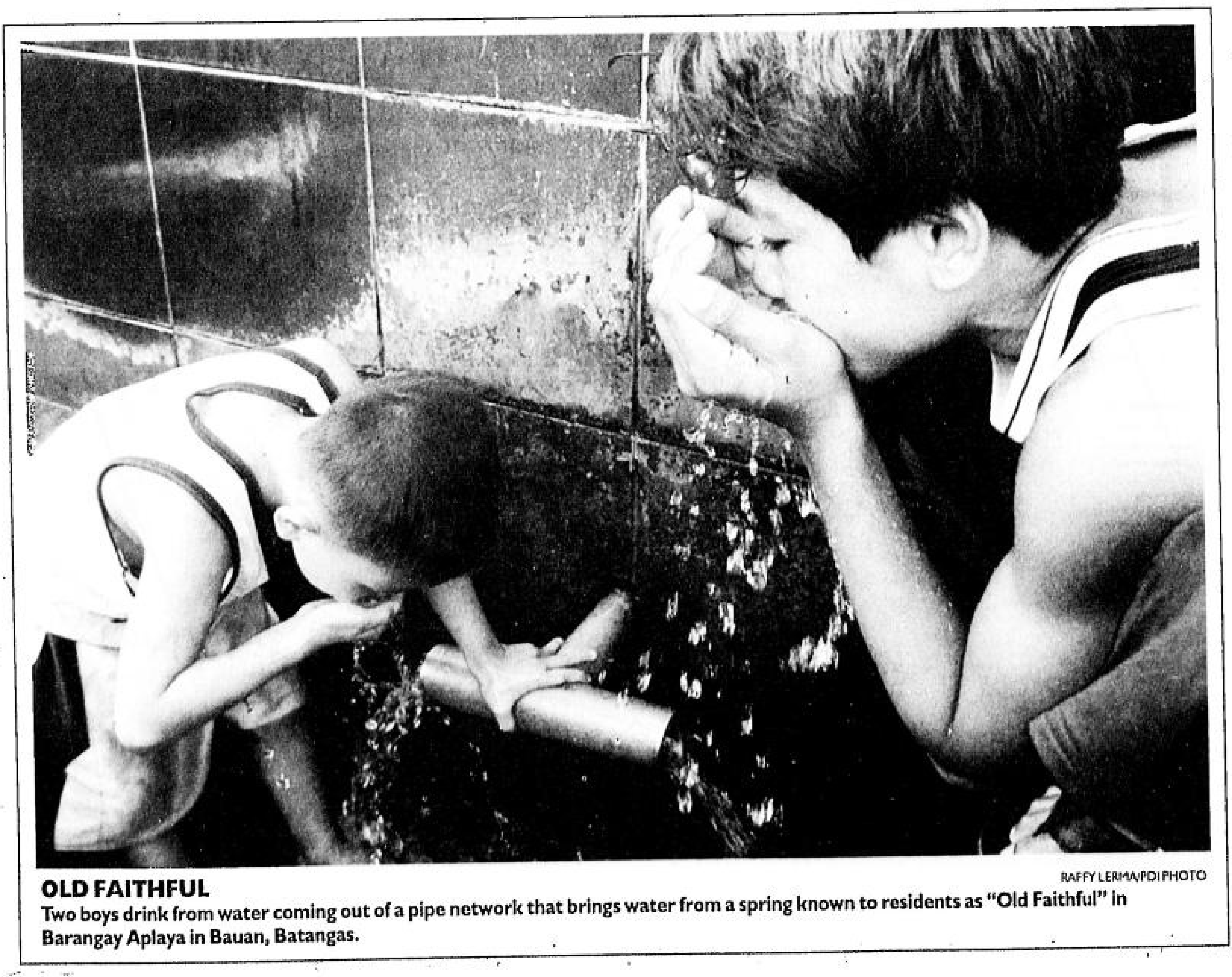
She said she also had to attend Thursday's opening of the 35th International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors Association convention in Pasay City.

Tight schedule

"It would have been difficult for us to have traveled from Bohol to Manila yesterday then to Nueva Vizcaya today. But I had to come to personally let Bishop Villena feel how dear he is to all of us," the President said in Ilocano.

After the Mass, Ms Arroyo held a 30-minute private dialogue at the Saint Dominic parish hall here with Villena, Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan of the diocese of Tuguegarao, and Bishops Sergio Utleg of the diocese of Ilagan and Prudencio Andaya Jr., apostolic vicariate of Tabuk.

Asked about what they discussed during the meeting, Villena said they "just relayed the ecclesiastical concerns of the region, especially on logging and mining."



RAFFY LERMA/PDI PHOTO

OLD FAITHFUL
Two boys drink from water coming out of a pipe network that brings water from a spring known to residents as "Old Faithful" in Barangay Aplaya in Bauan, Batangas.

Antimining priest gets death threat

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AN ANTImining priest here received a death threat on Wednesday, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Henry Lozanes, city police chief, said the threat against Monsignor Crisanto de la Cruz was delivered in the form of two bullets gift-wrapped in a box that also contained two bars of soap.

"We are taking it seriously," Lozanes said.

But he said the police have yet to determine where the threat might have come from.

De la Cruz said he found the "gift" at the altar of the St. Joseph Church after he said Mass on Wednesday.

The priest said he suspects that the threat has something to do with his antimining advocacy but did not elaborate.

"No amount of death threats (could) silence me, I will continue with this crusade. I know that the people are behind me," he said.

De la Cruz has been in the forefront of the protest against the entry of Chinese firm Linktone International Mining Corp. in Vitali District.

The mining company plans to extract iron ore from the said area.

De la Cruz said Linktone's planned operation in Vitali would endanger at least six villages.

Rosalito Mendoza, Linktone vice president for operation, said Linktone has a good reputation because it is a responsible mining company.

In the Philippines, Linktone also operates a mine in Bulacan, he said.

Mendoza said that in its planned operation in Vitali, Linktone would use the cut and fill system.

On Thursday, hundreds of protesters mostly priests, teachers, students and residents of Vitali District walked out of the Sangguniang Panlungsod session hall after councilors rejected calls to ban Linktone from operating.

"It's hopeless, our plea landed on deaf ears," Gamar Jubail, vice chair of the Zamboanga City Fisheries and Agriculture Inc. said.

Jubail said they do not want Linktone because the company's activities would eventually pollute their source of livelihood.

"It won't benefit the people. We are thinking about the welfare of our people, not the income. We are after the peoples' survival. We are dependent on fishing and agriculture and mining would destroy our source of livelihood," he said. ***Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

East Visayas reels from tragedies

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S WORST TRAGEDIES befell Eastern Visayas that it is becoming known as a disaster prone region.

The list includes the Doña Paz and Doña Marilyn sea accidents, Ormoc City's flash flood, and the recent Guinsaugon mudslide in Southern Leyte.

On Feb. 17, Rico Dando-an, 48, was gathering bamboo in the mountain of St. Bernard for use in their house when the land began to fall. He ran as fast as he could downhill and stopped only when he saw mud all over.

He lost his wife Laurencia, 45, and five children—Ido, 18; Eralin, 13; Eramy, 11; Henry, 10; and Herbert, 6, who were all at home then.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) regional office in Eastern Visayas placed the death toll in the landslide at 154 confirmed dead and 978 still missing but presumed dead.

Among those missing were 58 who were not residents of Guinsaugon but were at the village for business, like the nurses and health personnel who attended a Women's Health program there.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) immediately clarified that illegal logging was not the culprit behind the landslide, saying it was a "geologic phenomenon."

Edilberto Nasayao, DENR regional director for research, said a team sent to investigate found that the soil in Barangay Guinsaugon and its neighboring sitios "was porous and embedded with rock materials and boulders," rendering them easy to erode.

He said "continuous and excessive rainfall fully saturated the loose soil condition in the area."

Mud covered an area of about 100 hectares.

Four days before the landslide, seven construction workers were buried alive when a mudslide hit their bunkhouse in Barangay Kahupian of Sogod town in Southern Leyte. The victims had just inspected a landslide in nearby Sitio Agas-agas that blocked the road.

The continuous rains that had been going on for several days in Southern Leyte and other parts of the region had warned people of the possibility of flash floods and landslides. In fact, some families living in low-lying areas evacuated to higher grounds when water rose and landslides occurred. Among these places were villages in San Ricardo and San Francisco towns in nearby Panaon Island, about 20 km from St. Bernard.

San Ricardo, San Francisco and the mainland town of Liloan were the sites of landslides that killed 150 people on Dec. 19, 2003.

At that time, the MGB had already warned that St. Bernard and the towns on the Panaon Island, among other towns in Southern Leyte, were lying in "geohazard" areas. Several towns in Leyte and Samar also lie in this geologically risky area.

The MGB said rocks in the Leyte-Surigao area "are badly broken or fragmented. The fragmented rocks are prone to weathering and erosion. When continuous rainfall occurs, water seeps into the fractures of the broken rocks and promote the deterioration of the rock mass."

A RESCUE worker ponders what's ahead as efforts to find survivors were becoming dimmer and were eventually dropped in Guinsaugon. PDI PHOTO

Whenever there is excessive rainfall, the MGB added, "the rock and soil materials in the area became saturated with water that generated the slide." On Nov. 5, 1991, a flash flood hit Ormoc City, killing some 3,000 to 5,000 people, most of them living in houses erected on a sandbar in the middle of a big river. There was a typhoon at that time and an unusual rainfall was noted in the area.

The disaster was attributed to illegal logging, but Ormoc residents said that their mountains have long been bald. They instead pointed to waterspouts that occurred on that fateful day, which poured water in the upper portions of the city, as the culprit. The water, however, did not directly flow into the nearby sea because a dam-like structure of floating materials blocked the waterway, particularly beneath a bridge at the downtown area of the city.

This caused the water to rise, and when the dam gave way, water rushed and also carried away houses in both sides of the riverbanks and near the mouth of the river.

The biggest sea mishap to occur in the region was the MV Doña Paz tragedy in December 1987, which claimed the lives of some 3,000 people, most of them from Leyte and Samar.

Most of the victims were hurrying to Manila where they want to spend the Christmas holiday. But before reaching the port of Manila, the overloaded ship collided with an oil tanker off the island of Mindoro.

The following year, another sea mishap occurred, killing around 250 people, most of them also from Leyte and Samar. The ship, the MV Marilyn, braved big waves spawned by a typhoon and sank near the Camotes Sea.

Some of the tragedies are obviously man-made, like the Doña Paz. But while the others were just nature's expression of wrath, the lessons learned in previous tragedies have apparently been unlearned.

GRAND OPEN HOUSE!!!
March 19, 2006

LUCKY 7 ONE-DAY PROMO

FREE!!! As much as 2 YEARS CONDO Dues IF YOU RESERVE DURING THE OPEN HOUSE!!!

Find out why it is The Fastest Selling, Best Value-For-Money Condo in the Country!

Pictures shown are of furnished model unit. Actual turnover units are bare and semifinished.

30 SQM Semi-Finished Units for as low as P640,800

"Total Cost, No Extra Fees"

SPAZIO BERNARDO
The Art of Quality Living

Champaca Street, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.
Just 8 Minutes from the MRT SM North terminal.
From Makati take EDSA upon reaching SM City North turn right then left to Mindanao Ave. pass Congressional-Tandang Sora Ave. turn right at Champaca St. (across HBC SPLASH)

A JOINT PROJECT OF:

PHINMA PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORP.
City Living Made Easy
Tel. No.: 812-PPHC (7742)
TEXT: 0917-812-PPHC (7742)
www.spaziobernardo.com

Call our Lead Marketing Agents:
Boomland Realty: 939-7338
Granwood Realty: 929-8584

[illegible] are subject to change without prior notice.

Benguet execs denounce reports on dog meat trade

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—OFFICIALS here denounced what they called as continuing misinformation being circulated in the Internet that the provincial government had legalized or intended to legalize the commercial sale of dog meat.

They said legal actions must be taken against those groups who had peddled the idea that the province had disregarded the animal welfare law by passing an ordinance that allowed the sale of dog meat.

Gov. Borromeo Melchor said the province had wrongly earned the ire of animal welfare groups worldwide because of this wrong information.

Dog meat trade

"But that is not true. We butcher dogs as part of our culture but we never use our customs to justify the passage of any law that would make the dog meat trade lawful," Melchor told the INQUIRER on Friday.

The Benguet provincial board passed this week a resolution condemning a particular website for spreading the information that the province had sought exemptions from the ban on dog meat sale provided by the Animal Welfare Law (Republic Act 8485).

The board was irked by the website's call for a boycott of the province and its products.

Board Member Aloysius Kato said the website had also urged travelers to avoid visiting Baguio City and Benguet and boycott Philippine-made products as long as the eating of dog meat continues.

Investigate

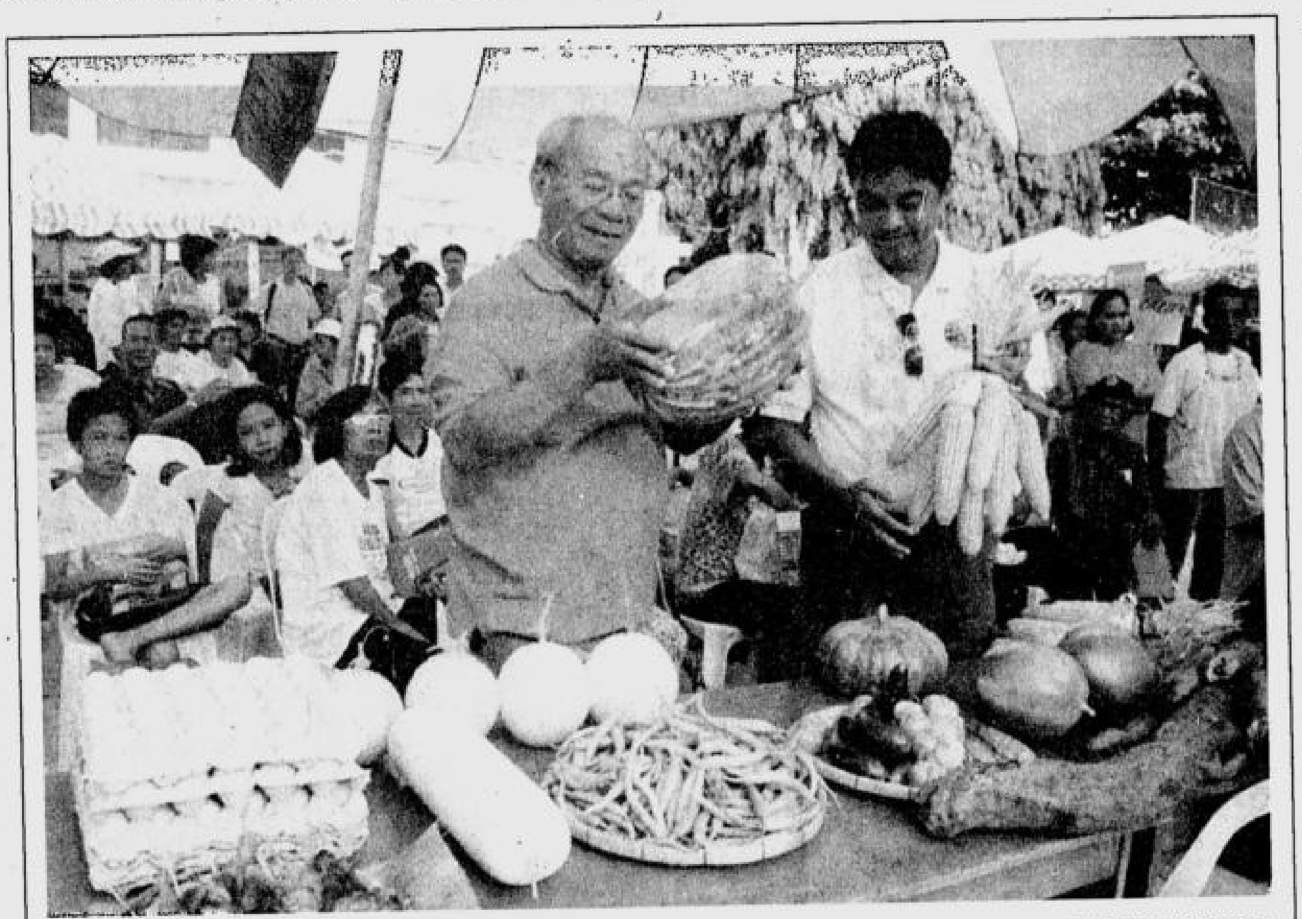
The Department of Tourism in the Cordillera said it would immediately investigate once it received a copy of the provincial board resolution that assailed the website.

"Based on our findings, we will ask (Tourism) Secretary Joseph Ace Durano to make the proper advisory," Purificacion Molintas, DOT regional director, said.

More than 300 letters from abroad had been received by the province lately asking Melchor to stop the trade of dog meat.

The board said the misinformation could have been caused by a resolution it passed in November last year that reminded law enforcement agencies not to raid restaurants offering dog meat without coordinating with the Department of Agriculture.

MISINFORMATION!
BOYCOTT
COMPLAINT!


RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI PHOTO

AGRIVOLUTION
Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza shows some agricultural products during the **AGRI-VOLUTION**, a comprehensive agricultural program aimed at increasing the income of farmers and fishermen.

Village demands ₱10.5B from bases authority

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A BARANGAY captain in Tarlac has demanded a whopping P10.5 billion from the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to turn his village and adjacent areas into a "model community."

The amount that Kennedy Molina, chair of Barangay Cristo Rey in Capas town, is asking from the BCDA is the first and biggest claim since the government in 1992 began selling or redeveloping military lands for industrial and other uses.

Molina said his village ought to get a share from the proceeds of the sale of Fort Bonifacio and other base lands sold by the BCDA.

Molina said the stake of the village, formerly named Camp O' Donnell, came from its being "an honest-to-goodness [United States] facility and not just an extension of Clark."

He said since Clark, Subic and other government agencies were getting funds from the BCDA, his village should also be getting its share from the sale's proceeds. The village council is filing the claim by end of March, he said.

In a statement to the INQUIRER, Molina said "several millions of pesos have practically been lost or denied our barangay."

He said this happened because "some national, provincial and municipal officials may have merely overlooked the existence of Republic Act 7227 (base conversion law)."

That law, he said, cited the O' Donnell transmitter station and the Capas relay stations as among the camps and military reservations planned for conversion.

According to him, there was no doubt that Camp O' Donnell was a "real base."

The Japanese Imperial Army, he said, seized the camp in 1942 and turned it into a concentration camp for thousands of Filipino and American soldiers who were forced to join the Death March from Bataan.

In 1991, he said, the government used portions of the camp to build a resettlement site for those displaced by Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions.

Molina said the amount, which he described as a "fair share" from the BCDA, would be spent for the development of Barangays Cristo Rey, Manlapig, Lawy, Sta. Lucia, Patling and Sta. Juliana. These are located east of the volcano and some 120 km northwest of Manila.

ROUNDUP

From shabu to marijuana

MAHIRAP ANG BUHAY NGAYON 'NO !

LEGAZPI CITY—Due to the scarcity in the supply of shabu, users of illegal drugs have shifted to marijuana, according to police. Senior Supt. Darius Tuason, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Bicol director, said users shifted to marijuana because it was cheaper. Tuason said at least 737 illegal drug cases have been filed and are being monitored by his agency in the different courts in the region as of December 2005. Of these, the courts have meted out 28 convictions while 27 cases were dismissed and another 27 cases were dropped. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cotabato mayor dies

COTABATO CITY—Pikit, North Cotabato Mayor Motin Malingco died of cardiac arrest on Thursday, a day after he turned 54, according to his wife, provincial Board Member Farida Malingo. Mrs. Malingco said her husband was earlier admitted at the Davao Doctor's Hospital in Davao City due to throat cancer. The late mayor was a former Army captain, who later became businessman. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 die in road crashes

COTABATO CITY—At least two persons were killed in separate vehicular accidents in North Cotabato on Wednesday, police said. Police identified the fatalities as Juddy Yñon of Tulunan and livestock dealer Eduardo Gimenez of Kabacan town. Yñon died when he was hit by a speeding motorcycle while crossing the national highway in Barangay Buayan in M'lang town. Gimenez died after the truck he was driving turned turtle along the Carmen-Kabacan highway. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Off-road challenge

BACOLOR, Pampanga—Mt. Pinatubo's landscape of lahar (mudflows) here will be the playground for what is touted as Asia's unique off-road challenge on March 18-19, organizers said. The Third Pampanga Off-Roaders Challenge is "exceptionally different" because instead of having a single racer hurdle the course one at a time, this game sees a set of three teams overcoming the obstacles all at the same time, Marni Castro of the Pampanga Off-Roaders Club Inc. (Porci) said. At least 30 teams have signed up for the event that has been adopted by the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders (Nasfor). *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Maguindanao split planned

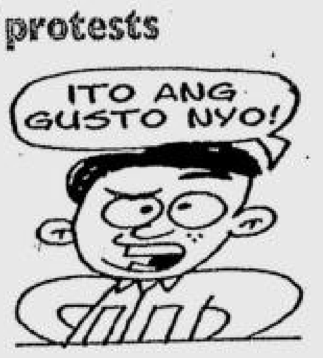
MAGUINDANAO, IRANON AND RAJA BUAYAN

COTABATO CITY—Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan has endorsed a resolution by the provincial board that seeks to split the province into three. Ampatuan said there was a need to fast track development in the areas that compose the existing province. "This is the clamor of our people during the last elections," he said. Under the proposal, Maguindanao will be divided into the provinces of Maguindanao, Iranon and Raja Buayan. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cebu troops consulted

CEBU CITY—The leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has reached Cebu in its nationwide consultation among junior officers and enlisted personnel after a recent coup attempt against the Arroyo administration. Brig. Gen. Jaime Buenaflor, AFF Civil Relations Service (CRS) commanding general, said the common complaints of soldiers in the Visayas were low salary, allowances and poor equipment and uniform. The Cebu consultation was held at the AFP Central Command headquarters and was attended by 500 junior officers and enlisted personnel from all over the Visayas. "These are common but minor grievances of our soldiers but the AFP leadership had already acted on it," Buenaflor said.

Cha-cha info drive amid protests


ITO ANG GUSTO NYO!

NAGA CITY—Local chief executives in Camarines Sur are ready to launch an information drive on planned amendments to the Constitution amid continuing protests against the campaign, a mayor here yesterday said. Baao town mayor Mel Gaite, president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) Camarines Sur chapter, said the information drive had been agreed upon during the national directorate meeting.

Solon slams Church 'lies'

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—REP. EDCEL Lagman, principal author of House Bill 3773 or the proposed Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act, said he is not backing off from pushing for the passage of the bill in the House and said the Roman Catholic Church is peddling "barefaced lies."

"I am not one to back off from a challenge and it is precisely because this crusade has been such an uphill battle that I am even more eager and enthusiastic to counter the deliberate misinformation and barefaced lies that critics of the bill, led by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and supported by lay organizations like Couples for Christ, are disseminating and passing off as Bible truth," said Lagman on Thursday evening.

Lagman was one of the speakers at the 2nd National Conference on Population, Health and Environment on March 16-17, 2006 at the Waterfront Hotel here.

In a press conference after his speech, Lagman said the Catholic Church "should be honest with their advocacy" and that "the baseless criticism is very obvious and unwanted."

Taking another dig at the Church, Lagman said a budget of P50 million for family planning was given to the Couples for Christ and that it should make an accounting of the amount.

"How did they spend it?" asked the lawmaker.

Lagman said there is no prejudice from policymakers as to what form of family planning should be used.

SEIKO

RP's First Choice in Watches

Reader's Digest Philippines SUPERBRAND 2005 Gold

IT'S NOT YOUR DRIVING.
IT'S NOT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.
IT'S NOT YOUR DVDs.

IT'S YOUR WATCH THAT
TELLS MOST ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.

ARCTURA
KINETIC
AUTO RELAY

POWERED BY THE MOVEMENT OF YOUR BODY.
OFF THE WRIST, IT ENTERS A SLEEP STATE UP TO FOUR YEARS.
BACK ON THE WRIST, IT RESETS ITSELF TO EXACT TIME.

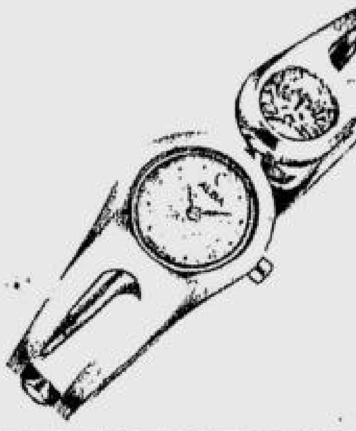
Come visit our counters for more varieties of SEIKO Arctura Auto Relay.
You can get a FREE SEIKO METAL BALL PEN with every purchase beginning April 10, 2005 while stocks lasts.

www.ssci.com.ph

Always ask for a warranty card
FREE CHECK-UP
Seiko Service Center Exclusive quality service w/ longest warranty

THE BEST SERVICE FOR SEIKO & ALBA WATCHES AT THESE SEIKO SERVICE CENTERS
• MAIN LABS.: 2310 Majalco Bldg., Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City Tel. (632) 886-6771 to 72 • MAKATI : G72 Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati City Tel. (632) 892-8302 • MANILA :1990 NICFUR Bldg. cor. Taft & Quirino Ave., Malate, Manila Tel. (632) 523-8676 • QUEZON CITY : # 4 Lower Ground Floor, New Farmer's Plaza Araneta Center Cubao, Q. C. Tel. (632) 913-1908 • WB 206 SM City, North Ave., cor. EDSA Q.C. Tel. (632) 929-3097 • CAVITE : 008 SM City Bacoor, Tirona cor. Emilio Aguinaldo Hi-Way, Bacoor, Cavite Tel.(046) 970-4976 • CEBU : Lower Ground Flr., SM City North Reclamation Area, Cebu City Tel.: (032) 232- 0782 • J. Rodriguez Bldg., Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City Tel.(032) 253-6936

Dreams to be a ballerina
Drools in an art gallery
Meditates for realism
Practices kick-boxing
Wears an Alba

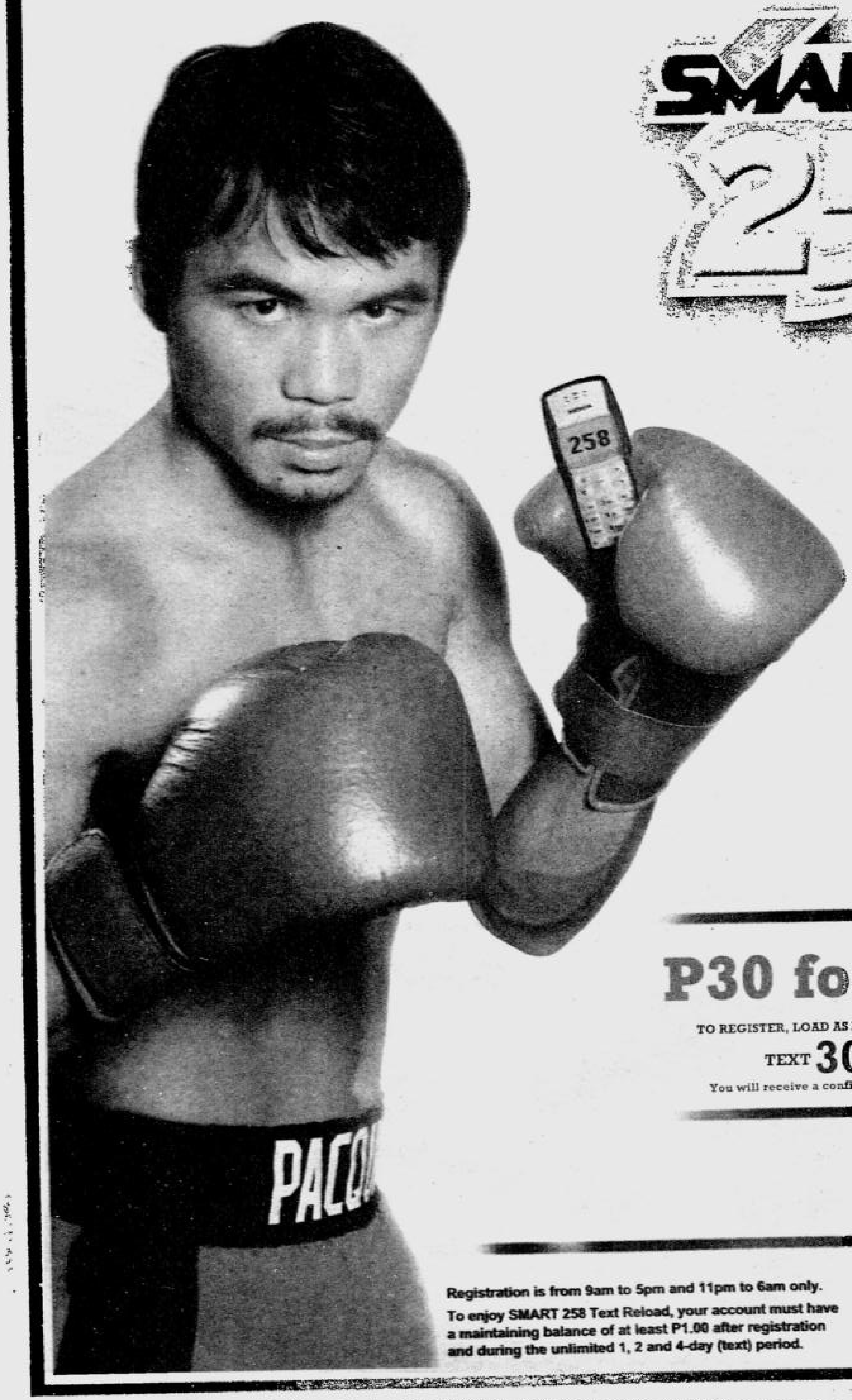


From SEIKO WATCH CORPORATION

ALBA

Available at any SEIKO Service Center and authorized Dealers nationwide

ANOTHER CHAMPION FROM THE LEADER IN WIRELESS



SMART 258

ALL DAY TEXTING UNLIMITED

KNOCKOUT SA SULIT ANG MGA DEALS!

P30 for 2 DAYS

TO REGISTER, LOAD AS LOW AS P30 TO YOUR PREPAID LINE.

TEXT 30 SEND TO 258

You will receive a confirmation message of your registration

P15 for 1 DAY

TO REGISTER, LOAD AS LOW AS P15 TO YOUR PREPAID LINE.

TEXT 15 SEND TO 258

You will receive a confirmation message of your registration

You may now make unlimited texts to other SMART subscribers.

P60 for 4 DAYS

TO REGISTER, LOAD AS LOW AS P60 TO YOUR PREPAID LINE.

TEXT 60 SEND TO 258

You will receive a confirmation message of your registration

Text all day to over 20 million SMART subscribers nationwide!

Registration is from 9am to 5pm and 11pm to 6am only.
To enjoy SMART 258 Text Reload, your account must have a maintaining balance of at least P1.00 after registration and during the unlimited 1, 2 and 4-day (text) period.

* Unlimited texts apply to SMART to SMART texts only.
Regular rates apply for texts to other networks.
Regular rates apply for MMS and VAS downloads.

OPEN TO ALL SMART PRE-PAID SUBSCRIBERS

Promo period is from March 7 to April 2, 2006 Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 1483, Series of 2006.

Aplus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE

Grade II student dies after teacher makes her eat pencil shavings

/A20

ON TARGET

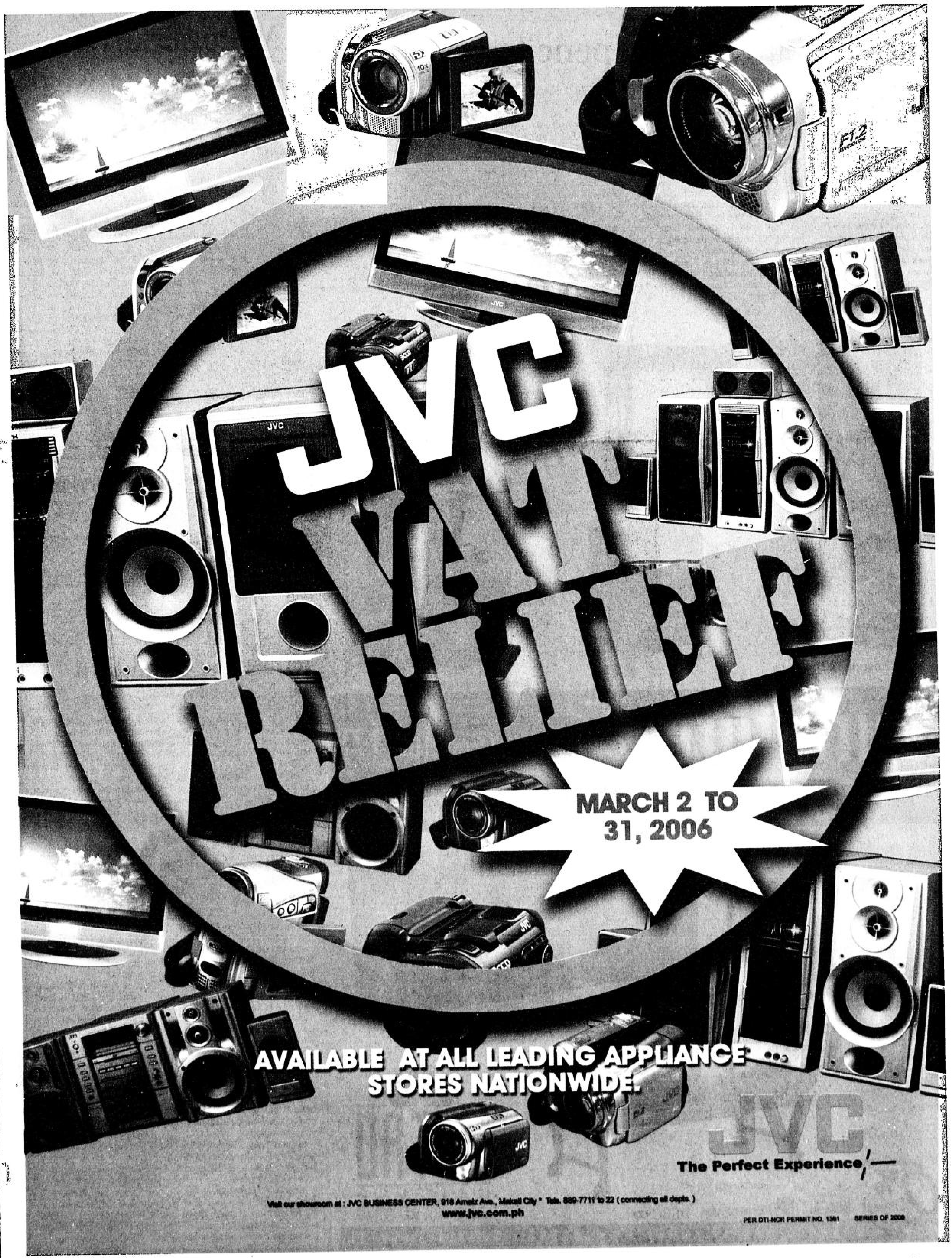
Ramon Tulfo

The military is a spoiled brat

/A20

Truck driver hit car of Denver Razon, says eyewitness cabbie

/A20



JVC VAT RELIEF

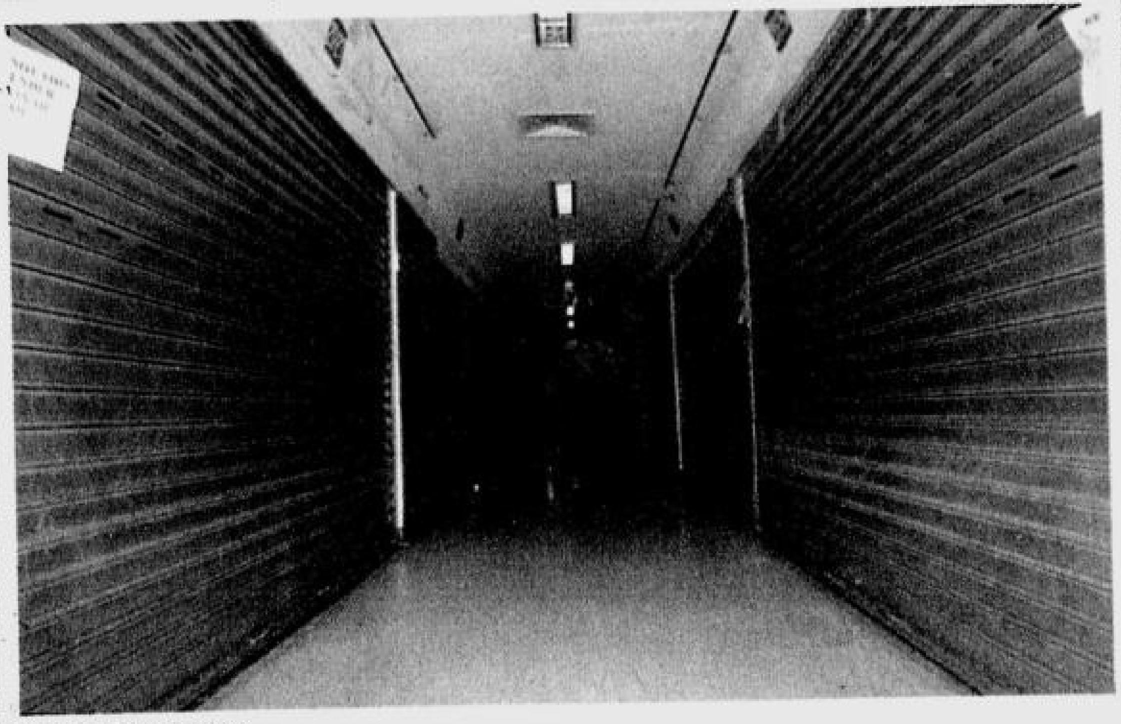
MARCH 2 TO 31, 2006

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING APPLIANCE STORES NATIONWIDE.

JVC
The Perfect Experience

Visit our showroom at : JVC BUSINESS CENTER, 916 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City * Tels. 889-7711 to 22 (connecting all depts.)
www.jvc.com.ph

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1361 SERIES OF 2006



MALL HOLIDAY
Customs police walk through 168 Mall which looks like a ghost town, a day after the Bureau of Customs raided the establishment following reports that stall owners have not been paying the correct taxes and duties on their merchandise. REM ZAMORA

Truck driver did it, says eyewitness

By DJ Yap

A TAXI DRIVER WHO WITnessed the car crash that killed Denver Razon surfaced yesterday to point to the truck driver as the one responsible, a day after the latter denied causing the fatal accident.

Garlando Matinog, 47, pointed an accusing finger at Eunize Siazon, 29, the driver of the 10-wheeler truck that allegedly sideswiped a Honda City and sent it slamming into an electric post on G. Araneta Avenue early Wednesday morning.

The accident killed Razon, 29, son of former singer and Mandaluyong City councilor Darius Razon, and injured his friend Marian Bustillos, 23, who was driving the car.

Matinog told Insp. Alejandrito Tablazon, follow-up section chief of the Quezon City central traffic sector, that he had seen the truck (plate number PLY-753) sideswipe Bustillos' car.

The witness also confirmed an earlier statement by Bustillos that the impact sent the car slamming into an electric post, Tablazon said.

Matinog told police that he even chased the truck. When he caught up with Siazon and confronted him about the accident, Siazon allegedly told him, "*Wala akong pakialam. Wala akong kasalanan* (I don't care. I wasn't at fault)."

Tablazon said Matinog's affidavit was attached to the charges against Siazon, who was subjected to inquest proceedings yesterday. The truck driver was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property with homicide and serious physical injuries, police said.

Girl dies after eating pencil shavings

By Jocelyn R. Uy

EVERY AFTERNOON, NINE-year-old Delmar Redota's playmates would flock to her house in Taguig City to attend her "classes."

On Wednesday, they came to pay their final respects to their friend who had wanted to become a teacher someday.

Redota, a Grade II pupil at the Silangan Elementary School Main in Barangay Upper Bicutan had died before dawn, exactly a week after a teacher allegedly forced her to swallow pencil shavings in class.

The teacher, identified as Brenda Elbambuena, was sweeping the floor after recess when someone in the class threw pencil shavings into the air, Dr. Remedios Antonio, the school principal, said.

Believing that it was Redota and another student behind the prank, Elbambuena reportedly ordered them to eat the shavings.

"Her classmate just faked eating the shavings. But my daughter really swallowed them," the girl's mother, Diana, tearfully told the INQUIRER yesterday.

When Delmar came home from school later that day, she was pale and had a poor appetite, she recalled.

"Usually, when she comes home after school in the afternoon, she would play teacher with the other kids in the neighborhood. But that day, she did not go out of the house," Diana said.

She added that her daughter never told her about the incident. "She was a very quiet child. She was a good girl… she wanted to be a teacher someday," she added.

Two days after the incident, Delmar came down with a fever. On Tuesday, her parents discovered that she had developed acute tonsillitis and pneumonia, allegedly because of the pencil shavings she had swallowed.

At around 4 a.m. the following day, she had difficulty in breathing. Her parents rushed her to the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City where she was declared dead on arrival.

Diana complained to the school principal the next day. But Elbambuena, who was just substituted for another teacher when the incident occurred, was absent and was believed to have gone into hiding.

Diana, however, was hesitant to press charges against the teacher. All that they want, she said, was a decent burial for their daughter.

'TMG operatives committed lapses'

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE INVESTIGATORS LOOKing into the wounding of a business executive in Pasig City two weeks ago have found "lapses" on the part of the traffic management officers who figured in the shooting incident.

But the Eastern Police District did not cite specific lapses and offered little in the way of explaining what exactly went wrong during the police operation on March 8.

The EPD also did not recommend any action against the police officers involved. Seven officers were earlier sacked by former Traffic Management Group head Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanan, who had expressed his disgust at what he described as the "stupidity" of their action.

Procedures violated

"Based on our investigation, there have been some lapses. But in particular, the DIDM (Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management) will have to be the one to determine whether there is probable cause (to charge them or not)," said EPD director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino.

"(There was) violation of operational procedures, and there are many. But all of them are rules of procedures," he said.

He did not elaborate what these operational procedures were.

The EPD's "findings" would be submitted to the DIDM and the Ombudsman, according to Alejandrino.

The police also showed a PowerPoint presentation of what took place around midnight last March 8 on Lanuza Street corner E. Rodriguez Avenue in Pasig City.

The presentation did not add new facts to what was already disclosed by the TMG or by the media in the days after policemen peppered with bullets the Toyota Vios of Randolph Clarito, a business executive who happened to be passing by the area.

At that time, the police were looking for another car, a Toyota Altis, whose occupants had earlier engaged another set of TMG officers in a firefight in Cubao, Quezon City.

The police later apologized to Clarito and admitted the error, saying it was a case of mistaken identity.

Alejandrino said since the Ombudsman is taking over the case, the EPD would no longer be filing a separate case.

Clarito, he added, also "has not indicated… (he) will be filing a criminal case."

During the press conference, Alejandrino quoted the TMG officers as defending themselves by saying they were "flagging down all vehicles coming to C-5."

The military is a spoiled brat

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. JINGGOY ESTRADA HAS accused Efraim Genuino, chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), of granting a license to a Chinese-Filipino businessman to operate a casino at Fort Ilocandia.

Estrada said Genuino favored Jack Lam, to the detriment of other applicants for a casino license.

The son of former President Estrada by Sen. Loi Ejercito just shoots his mouth off without thinking. He should know that Lam was given the license during his father's time.

Fort Ilocandia, a five-star tourist hotel in Laoag City, was first sold to William Gatchalian, an Erap crony. But the hotel went bankrupt and was sold to Lam.

Apparently, according to my sources, Jinggoy didn't know about the relationship between Lam and his father.

The young senator is making a fool of himself by attacking his father's friends on the Senate floor.

His is what may be called selective amnesia.

* * *

DON'T be intoxicated with power, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon advises the military.

Susmaryosep, they've been intoxicated with power for a long time now, as if the good senator didn't know!

President Marcos gave the military unlimited power during martial law. If the military is acting the way it does, it's just acting true to form. It became a spoiled brat.

The Constitutional Commission of President Cory Aquino spoiled the military further by saying that the Armed Forces is the "protector of the people."

Now, that's a very broad term. It can even be interpreted to mean that if the civilian leadership is corrupt and abusive, the military can take over the government.

* * *

I'VE BEEN on Cloud 9 for the past few days after I received a report that two abusive cops that my public service program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo," helped prosecute have been dismissed from the service.

The case against Insp. Marco Polo A. Estrera and PO1 Tirso N. Rabina of the Police Assistance Center at the Cloverleaf, Balintawak, Quezon City, was heard by the Ombudsman.

Two years ago, Estrera and Rabina maltreated a waiter, Emmanuel Ringor, who sought their help after he became a victim of snatching in their area of responsibility.

Instead of helping the victim, the two cops beat up Ringor and jailed him for no apparent reason.

I think the two cops were protecting criminals in their area.

Sayang, this guy Estrera. He is a graduate of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), the police counterpart of the Philippine Military Academy.

Chest of 12 Drawers
Console Table
End Table
3- pc Accent Table & Chair Set
Cherry Blossom Screen

Furniture fair starts Mar. 17
up to 50% off Orientalia items

CoffeeTable & Stool Set
2-Door TV Cabinet
Day Bed

METRO
G·A·I·S·A·N·O

0% interest
citibank PayLite
Equitable PCI
METROBANK
HSBC

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0482, Series of 2006

COLON • MANDAUE • AYALA • LEGAZPI • LUCENA • MARKET!MARKET!

French students riot as job protests heat up

RIOT policemen clash with students March 16 in front of the Sorbonne University in Paris. AFP

PARIS—DEMONSTRATORS OVERTURNED cars and threw petrol bombs at police who repelled them with tear gas and water cannon as a show of force by hundreds of thousands of French students against the government over job reforms turned increasingly violent on Thursday.

Calm returned early Friday after demonstrators clashed with police on Paris' Place de la Sorbonne square in the Latin quarter following a protest march.

Protesters also vandalized cafés amid scenes that left the area veiled in tear gas fumes and a bookshop in flames on the square, located near departments of the Sorbonne University.

Police said 46 officers were injured, including 11 hospitalized, in clashes in the capital and incidents elsewhere in French towns including Rennes and Toulouse left several other officers hurt.

Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy laid blame for the riots on militants ranging from the extreme left to the extreme right, and including "hooligans" and "louts" from suburbs of Paris that had seen angry demonstrations earlier this year.

"There were a few hundred delinquents who came to fight," he told journalists after meeting police and firemen in central Paris. "Among them there were extreme left, extreme right, hooligans, and louts from a number of neighborhoods."

The minister reported some 300 arrests across the country, including 180 in Paris.

The protests were organized in anger at the proposed First Employment Contract (CPE), a contested youth jobs measure.

Unions, student groups and the political left say the CPE, which can be broken off without explanation in the first two years, is a license to hire and fire at will, and are demanding its withdrawal.

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, who championed the scheme as a key tool in fighting youth unemployment, faces the most serious test of his premiership as the wave of protests paralyzes dozens of French universities.

The CPE is aimed at encouraging companies to recruit young people.

The interior ministry said 257,000 people took to the streets in up to 80 towns and cities across France, while some organizers set the figure as high as half a million.

Sarkozy blamed militants for the violence, and paid tribute to the police for enabling the "real demonstrators" to pursue their task "in calm and without violence."

They were confronted with "hundreds of louts, delinquents, extremely violent," the minister said. Among them were far-leftists, "anarchists who really came to fight the police and gendarmes. There were also extreme rightists."

Student leaders said that 120,000 people joined the march through Paris' Left Bank university quarter, although police said there were 30,000. *AFP*

No safe water for 1B poor; private money retreats

MEXICO CITY—TEN YEARS AGO, many poor countries hoped private cash would bring safe water to the 1 billion people in the world who lack it, but now corporate interest is drying up.

After pumping about $25 billion into water supply and sanitation in developing countries in the 1990s, many companies have retreated or reduced their presence in places ranging from Bolivia to Indonesia.

Delegates at the World Water Forum that started in Mexico City on Thursday said new investments and ideas are needed to meet a UN goal of halving by 2015 the number of people without safe drinking water.

Relying on private business to reach that target, one of the UN Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs, is increasingly difficult, said Daniel Zimmer, a senior member of the body organizing the meeting.

"The hope that we had in the 1990s that the private money would really substantially help the achievements of the MDGs has obviously been seen now as something unrealistic because of the opposition to private participation," he said.

"We have to invent new partnerships, he said. "Only if we are able to have strong public services, only then can we have strong partnerships with the private sector."

Police outnumbered protesters gathering at the capital's Independence Angel monument for a march against the water meeting.

"We think the forum is being hijacked by the private sector and we're here to counteract that," said Steve Bloomfield, a British trade union representative.

Many of the protesters were colorfully dressed indigenous Mexicans demonstrating about local water issues, not anti-globalization protesters.

Several thousand riot police took over a lane of the busy Periferico ring road. Other main roads were closed.

Water forum critics say it is geared toward rich nations and large corporations, excludes developing countries and may be promoting privatization.

The World Water Forum's ruling body is made up of members from governments, international organizations like the World Bank, scientists and business people.

Public opposition is growing to water services being used as a profit-making activity, said Maude Barlow, a Canadian activist who has written a book criticizing water privatization.

"The kind of resistance they have run into really has given the big companies pause to think," she said.

Barlow said French company Suez failed to live up to expectations in providing fresh water and sewage systems to hundreds of thousands of people in Bolivia.

Protests in the town of El Alto against water charges in 2003 forced the government to scrap a contract with Suez.

The French company says privatizations it has carried out in Latin America have helped rescue crumbling water systems previously run poorly by public companies.

Loic Fauchon, president of the World Water Council, said aid agencies and business did not spend enough on water projects.

"Today only 5 percent of public aid is allocated to water. That is charity. Today only 5 percent of investments are dedicated to water. This is a major economic error," he said. *Reuters*

A MOROCCAN boy drinks from a public fountain in a slum area. AFP

ST. LUKE'S HEART INSTITUTE

My heart goes only for the best.

Nicanor A. Laudato,.
Property Manager,
Loving Husband and Father of 8 children
St. Luke's Heart Institute Patron from Guam

"St. Luke's is very close to my heart," says Mr. Laudato. Physicians in Guam referred his wife Amelia to St. Luke's Heart Institute, where she underwent angioplasty and abdominal aneurysm surgery while Mr. Laudato himself availed of the Cardiac Executive Check-up.

"The doctors at the Heart Institute are attentive and communicate medical advice in a way that inspired confidence in my wife and us, her family. The nurses are skilled and compassionate," says Mr. Laudato.

He reveals that an increasing number of people in Guam and Micronesia swear by the excellent patient care provided by St. Luke's. He says that his wife, an allied health professional who works at Guam Memorial Hospital, heard of the good work done at St. Luke's from patients, physicians and colleagues. *"So when it was time for us to decide where to seek off-island medical treatment, we were able to confidently choose St. Luke's."*

For nearly 20 years, patients with heart disorders have entrusted their medical care to St. Luke's Heart Institute. The Institute has stayed true to its commitment of providing total quality patient care by performing open heart surgery and coronary angioplasty with very high success rates. It has the country's most advanced medical equipment, ably operated by one of the world's best medical staff.

"For me," says Mr. Laudato, *"St. Luke's is the best."*

St. Luke's Heart Institute

Only the best is accredited by :

© Joint Commission INTERNATIONAL

The superior diagnostic efficiency and clinical success rate of St. Luke's Heart Institute is comparable with the best medical centers in the world.

It has the most complete infrastructure in the country to manage the world's most advanced equipment in the diagnosis of heart problems. Its wide array of state-of-the-art medical equipment is simply unmatched, and most of them are available only at St. Luke's. These are the following: • *The first PET Scanner in Southeast Asia and the only one in the country, complemented by the only Cyclotron in the Philippines today* • *The country's first operational 64-slice CT Scanner* • *The country's first and only 3-Tesla MRI (far more advanced than conventional MRI)* • *The country's first and only Cardiac Cathlab System with a flat-panel detector* • *The country's first and only combined Gamma Camera/CT.*

St. Luke's Heart Institute is ably directed by top cardiologists, interventionalists and surgeons who are supported by a highly trained paramedical staff. No wonder, the Institute has a 99% success rate on PCI (percutaneous cardiac intervention) and 98.9% survival rate, which compares favorably with the US National Medicare Experience of 97.9% survival rate.*

St. Luke's Heart Institute saves more lives and maintains the quality of life of more patients.

Only the best can make you feel better.

St. Luke's Medical Center
One of the world's best

**Based on St. Luke's Heart Institute Cardiovascular Disease Information System 2005 data and the US National Medicare Experience data, Latest Morbidity and Mortality Statistics on Coronary Bypass Surgery and Angioplasty.*

www.stluke.com.ph

St. Luke's Heart Institute is better staffed and better equipped than any other heart institution or center in the Philippines, old or new.

279 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City 1102, Philippines Tel: 7230101/7230301 Fax : 7231199 E-mail : info@stluke.com.ph

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

PHOTO IS BY SEYMOUR—WHO'S THAT GIRL?
This David Seymour photo shows actress Sophia Loren, at age 19, taken in 1953, and is part of an exhibit of Seymour's photos at the gallery in Washington. Seymour died in a mini-war that pitted Britain and France against Egypt 50 years ago. AP

Blair in 'cash-for-peerage' scandal, denies impropriety

LONDON—BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY Blair on Thursday strongly denied that loans from wealthy supporters to his governing Labour Party were improper, despite the donors later being nominated for a peerage.

"I am completely satisfied there has been no breach of any of the rules in relation to Labour Party nominations," he told reporters.

But Blair did reveal that he is considering changes to how nominations are made to the House of Lords, Britain's unelected upper chamber of parliament, as he was forced to fend off countless questions at his monthly news conference.

Blair said he wanted to "take the politics out" of the honors system by renouncing the prime minister's right to nominate individuals, acknowledging that the whole area of party funding was a "sensitive and controversial" issue.

Any change, however, would need to be applied for all parties, he added, saying he favored loans to be treated in the same way as donations to parties, and declared to the Electoral Commission.

Blair's latest test comes after allegations that three businessmen, who lent a reported 3.5 million pounds (6.1 million dollars, 5.1 million euros) to Labour last year, were later nominated for a seat in the Lords.

The row escalated Wednesday night after Labour Party treasurer Jack Dromey announced an inquiry into the matter, saying he had not been informed about the loans, which came in the run-up to last May's general election.

Labour said it had "fully complied" with rules on fund-raising while Blair told reporters he had no doubt the three donors were motivated out of a sense of public service.

"If someone supports the Labour Party, that's not a reason to put them in the House of Lords but it's not a reason not to put them in the House of Lords," he said, denying widespread claims of "cash-for-peerages."

Blair acknowledged that changes to the system needed to be made because of public concern over transparency. *AFP*

Bird flu outbreaks confirmed in 5 nations; Israel at risk

MUMBAI—BIRD FLU WAS CONFIRMED in four Asian nations and Denmark on Thursday and may have killed turkeys in Israel, and scientists outlined the genetic changes needed to turn the virus into a human pandemic.

Afghanistan, India and Burma (Myanmar) said tests had confirmed H5N1 caused recent outbreaks in birds, while Malaysia reported new cases in a wild bird and dead chickens.

Denmark, the latest European country affected, said tests showed a wild buzzard found south of Copenhagen had H5N1.

Israel suspects bird flu killed turkeys on two farms, although there were no test results yet, Agricultural Minister Zeev Boim said. Israel has so far been spared the virus.

In India, veterinary workers began throttling more than 70,000 birds to try to control the latest outbreak there. Hundreds of people were also tested for fever.

"There is no time for niceties. The birds have to be killed as fast as possible," said Bijay Kumar, animal husbandry commissioner of the state of Maharashtra, where bird flu resurfaced this week in backyard poultry.

Bird flu has spread with alarming speed in recent weeks across Europe, Africa and parts of Asia, leaving impoverished nations such as Afghanistan and Burma appealing for protective clothing and other basic equipment.

Bird flu is hard to catch, but people can contract it after coming into contact with infected birds.

US scientists reported on Thursday that they had found two small mutations that the virus would need to make to evolve into a human pandemic form, and said field tests could be used to monitor for the changes.

The more bird flu spreads, the greater the fear the virus will evolve into a form that could easily pass between people, triggering a pandemic in which millions could die.

Three young women who died in recent weeks in Azerbaijan, on the crossroads between Europe and Asia, tested positive for H5N1 infection. If the World Health Organization confirms that, their deaths would take the human toll to more than 100.

In Serbia, a teenager from a bird flu-stricken area was put in isolation after developing a high fever. *Reuters*

A SOUTH American Andean Condor in Moscow Zoo. AFP

SONY

RECHARGE AND READY TO RACE IN 15 MINUTES with Sony Ultra 15 Charger

Automatic Cut-Off SAFETY · IDEAL FOR · 15 ULTRA CHARGE !! · ULTRA 15 · CycleEnergy

With Sony's Ultra 15 rechargeable battery system, you can fast charge four 2500 mAh batteries in just 15 minutes. Features to protect your batteries and enhance the usage of your digital cameras, MP3 players, PDA's CD Walkmans and portable game devices:
• Voltage & Temperature Monitoring • Safety Timer • Alkaline Battery Detection • Built-in Automatic Power Cut-off system.

BCG-34HLD4 Power Charger P 990
BCG-34HE4 Super Quick Charger P 1,790
BCG-34HRD4 Super Quick Charger w/ Refresh Function P 2,490
BCG-34HRME4 Super Quick Charger w/ Refresh Function & LCD Screen Indicator P 2,750
NH-AA-B2E Rechargeable AA Ni-MH Batteries P 430
NH-AAA-B2E Rechargeable AAA Ni-MH Batteries P 400
BCG-34HUE4 Ultra 15 Minutes Charger P 3200

like.no.other™

CCC Sony Customer Contact Center (02) 878-7600 info sph@ap.sony.com

www.sony.com.ph

Exclusively distributed by Sony Philippines Inc. - 26th Flr Tower 1, 6766 The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, 1226 PHILIPPINES.

WORLDBRIEFS

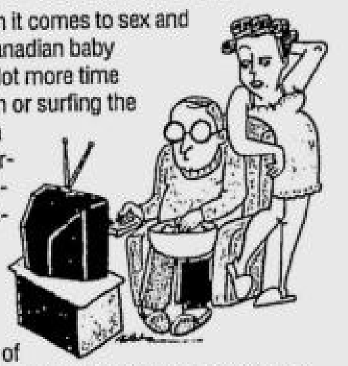
Deeper in debt

WASHINGTON—Congress gave its go-ahead Thursday to let the government borrow an additional $781 billion, and the House and Senate promptly voted for major spending initiatives for the war in Iraq, hurricane relief and education. The Senate, on a 52-48 vote, sent President George W. Bush a measure raising the ceiling on the national debt to nearly $9 trillion and preventing a first-ever default on Treasury notes. The move allows lawmakers and the president to pay for the war in Iraq without raising taxes or cutting popular domestic programs. *AP*

Iran willing to talk with US

TEHRAN, Iran—At loggerheads with the United States over its nuclear program, Tehran said Thursday it was ready to negotiate with the "Great Satan" to help stabilize neighboring Iraq. The White House responded by saying any talks would not take up the nuclear crisis or other disputes and that negotiators would have a "very narrow mandate." "We agree to negotiate with the Americans," the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani told reporters after a closed-door speech to parliament. "Iran accepts the demand of (Iraqi Shiite leader Abdel Aziz) Hakim to resolve the Iraqi problems and issues with the goal of creating an independent (Iraqi) government," said Larijani, also Iran's nuclear chief. *AFP*

Rather the TV than sex



TORONTO—When it comes to sex and romance, aging Canadian baby boomers spend a lot more time watching television or surfing the net, according to a new study. The survey by pollsters Ipsos Reid, commissioned by Pfizer Inc., the maker of Viagra, found that Canadians between the ages of 40 and 64 spend an average of 15 minutes a day on sex and romance, but can spend as much as five hours a day watching TV or surfing the Internet. "Later in life, you have a different perspective of what sex is all about," John Wright, an Ipsos Reid spokesperson, said on Thursday. Of 2,500 people surveyed, more than half said they were often too tired to have sex, while 42 percent said they were too stressed out and 40 percent said they did not have time. Around half of the respondents said when they do have sex it is intimate and tender. *Reuters*

Small tsunami

AMBON, Indonesia—An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale rocked Indonesia's Maluku islands this week and triggered a small tsunami that killed at least two people and left three missing, an official and reports said Friday. "What happened was a small tsunami," Maluku Gov. Karel Albert Ralahalu, who visited the tsunami-hit village on Buru island, told reporters. He did not elaborate. The Republika daily quoted Buru deputy district chief Bakri Lumbessy as saying that the quake Tuesday left three people dead after waves as high as five meters swept away at least 116 village houses. *AFP*

Mexico drug war

MEXICO CITY—Mexico will begin extraditing drug lords wanted in the United States within weeks and expects a violent backlash from the powerful cartels, President Vicente Fox said on Wednesday. "I am confident and convinced that very soon, and I am talking about weeks, we will start the first extraditions of these leaders," Fox said. "I am sure that will provoke additional violence. ... They will try to retaliate," he said. "It could be judges, it could be government officials, but we will be ready." *Reuters*

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Balasabas tops caddies tilt A24

Tolomia rescues SLR with last-gasp putback

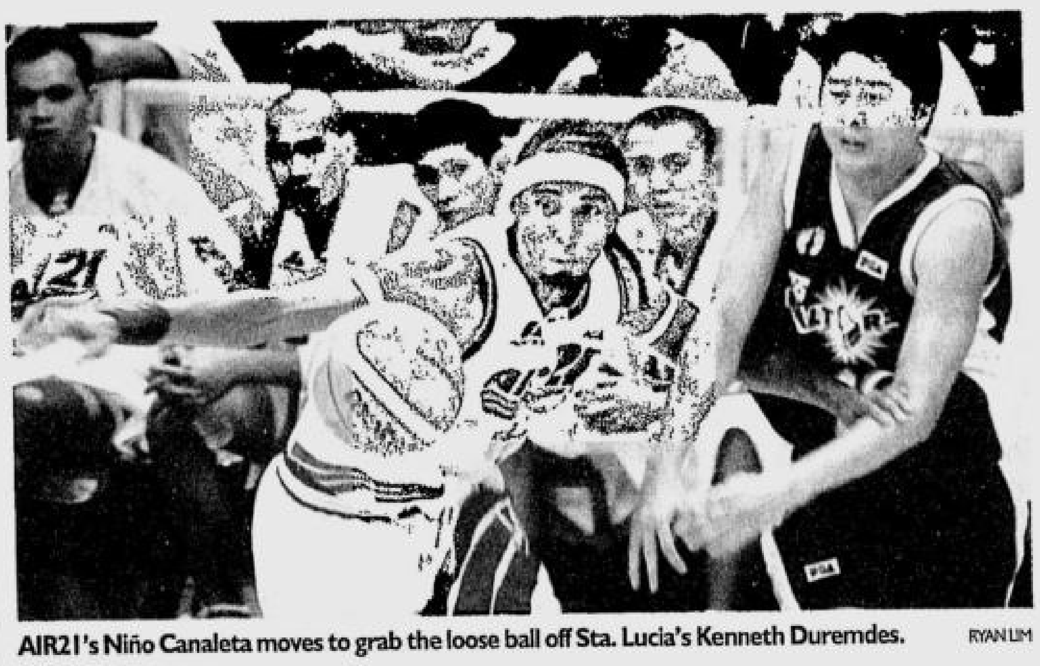
By June Navarro

CHESTER TOLOMIA SCORED on a putback off a fastbreak miss by Nelbert Omolon to lift Sta. Lucia Realty to a 102-100 squeaker over Air21 in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Queen Elizabeth Stadium, Hong Kong*)
4:10 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Purefoods
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel Beer
6:35 p.m.—Air21 vs Alaska

Omolon picked an errant pass by Patrick Fran meant for Renren Ritualo and raced down the court only to watch his layup bounce hard off the glass. But Tolomia did a good job of trailing Omolon, picking up the rebound and knocking down the shot with 3.8 seconds left to ice the victory for the Realtors.

The Express had the chance to tie the game or win it outright, but Ranidel de Ocampo's three-pointer bounced off the rim as time expired.



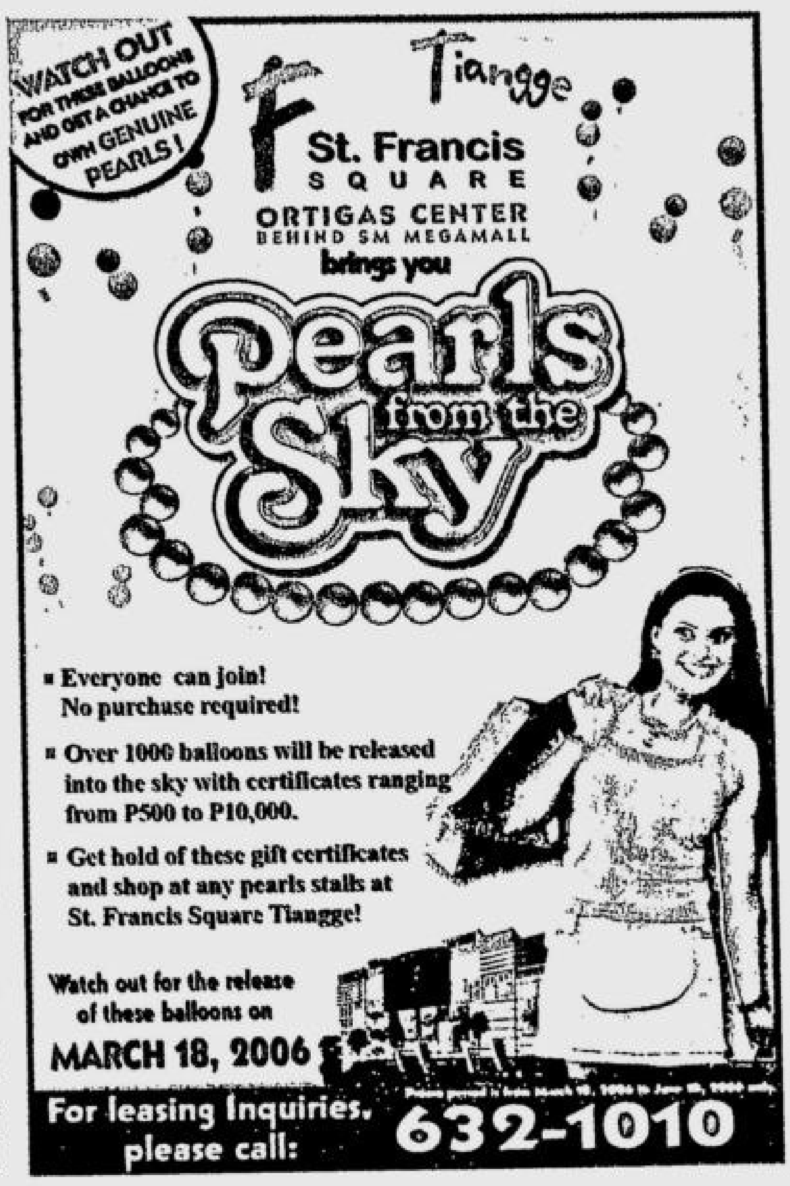
AIR21's Niño Canaleta moves to grab the loose ball off Sta. Lucia's Kenneth Duremdes. RYAN LIM

"It's a new system that we've been practicing," said Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua. "If you noticed, my big men kept pace with the other team's running game, contrary to what other people think."

Dennis Espino and Marlou Aquino flexed their muscles down low and joined Tolomia in the list of those who submitted double-double performances for the Realtors.

Espino had 24 points and 12 rebounds for his third double-double in as many games while the 6-foot-9 Aquino tossed in 11 points, 10 boards, three assists and three blocks. Tolomia had 11 points and

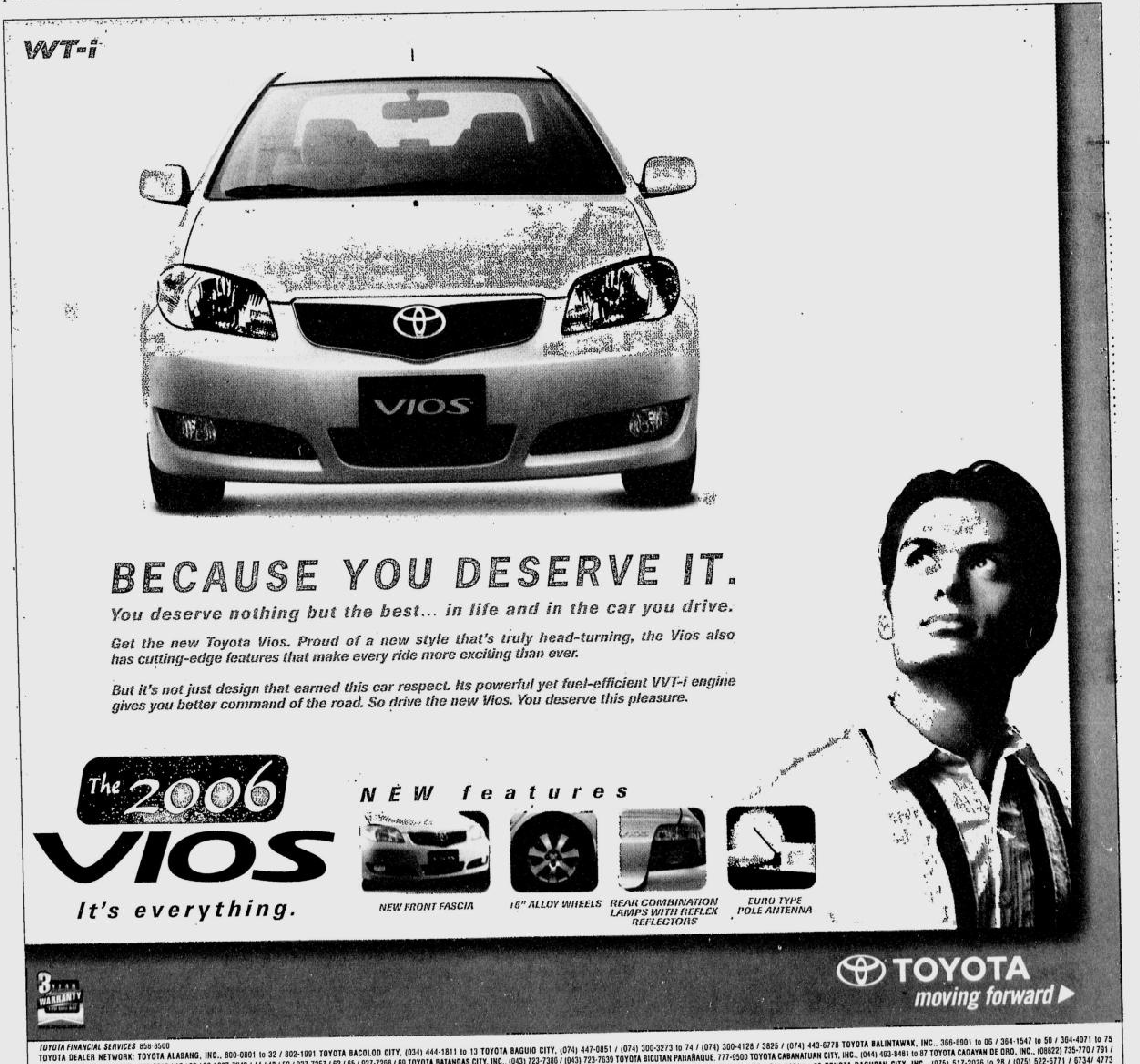
TOLOMIA/ A26



WATCH OUT FOR THESE BALLOONS AND GET A CHANCE TO OWN GENUINE PEARLS!
Tiangge
St. Francis SQUARE
ORTIGAS CENTER
BEHIND SM MEGAMALL
brings you
Pearls from the Sky

- Everyone can join! No purchase required!
- Over 1000 balloons will be released into the sky with certificates ranging from P500 to P10,000.
- Get hold of these gift certificates and shop at any pearls stalls at St. Francis Square Tiangge!

Watch out for the release of these balloons on
MARCH 18, 2006
For leasing Inquiries, please call: 632-1010



VVT-i
VIOS

BECAUSE YOU DESERVE IT.

You deserve nothing but the best... in life and in the car you drive.

Get the new Toyota Vios. Proud of a new style that's truly head-turning, the Vios also has cutting-edge features that make every ride more exciting than ever.

But it's not just design that earned this car respect. Its powerful yet fuel-efficient VVT-i engine gives you better command of the road. So drive the new Vios. You deserve this pleasure.

The 2006 VIOS
It's everything.

NEW features
NEW FRONT FASCIA
16" ALLOY WHEELS
REAR COMBINATION LAMPS WITH REFLEX REFLECTORS
EURO TYPE POLE ANTENNA

3 YEAR WARRANTY
TOYOTA
moving forward ▶

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 / (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7639 TOYOTA BICUTAN PARAÑAQUE, 777-9500 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC., (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9904 / (088) 858-7770 / (08822) 737-480 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734/ 4773 TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE, (046) 850-2036 / (046) 850-2929 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC. (033) 320-0115 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI, INC., 897-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION 682 9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO, (045) 961-1188 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 532-4132 / 532-8428 / 534-3009 (telefax) TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 671-0854 to 64 / 671-0460

Fate of RP basketball now up to Fiba

By Marc Anthony Reyes and Jasmine W. Payo

BEFORE THE MONTH ENDS, PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC committee (POC) president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco will formally submit the structure of the country's new cage body to the international basketball federation (Fiba).

Whether or not this latest POC-initiated effort will be enough to free the country from the shackles that bar it from competing internationally will now be entirely up to Fiba's scrutiny.

"As soon as Fiba gives its conformity, I will request Fiba for a representative to observe the election that will be held here," said Cojuangco.

"We have tried to comply to the best of our ability," said POC secretary general Steve Hontiveros, referring to the memorandum of understanding signed by the POC and the Fiba, wherein the latter listed down the requirements needed for a new body to be recognized.

"We've done everything that's needed with no vested interest and no hidden agenda."

Actually, there will be something missing in the documents Cojuangco will be carrying with him to Switzerland, where he will forward the new association's constitution and by-laws to Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann.

And that's the signature of Joey Lina, the president of the controversial Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) that the POC is trying to supplant with its new federation—Pilipinas Basketball.

"Lina was invited to be part of the new group, but he's the one who decided not to join," said Hontiveros, the concurrent bowling chief.

To explain Lina's missing signature, the POC will also submit the minutes of the meetings held by the stakeholders to show that the former senator was part of the talks until he backed out.

"We will submit the chronology of events to Fiba for them to know that everyone acted in good faith," said Mark Joseph, who co-chairs the POC basketball panel with legal counsel Ding Tanjuatco.

"We will also enclose the minutes of the meeting so they would know that Mr. Lina attended several meetings before quitting," said Hontiveros.

"I am still hoping that Mr. Lina will see the light that this is not just the organization that we're looking at but [we're doing this] for the the country," said Cojuangco.

Balasabas tops Caddies' Open by six strokes

By Musong R. Castillo

JESSIE BALASABAS GOES BACK HOME TO Zamboanga for the first time in more than a year tomorrow, now a full-fledged amateur with a bright future.

"All the hard work has finally paid off," said Balasabas, after holding on to win the second National Caddies' Open by six shots over Mark Fernando yesterday.

The 23-year-old Balasabas struggled to a 10-over-par 82 at Wack Wack's East layout that gave the field a brutal time, but still won pulling away.

"I think this (championship) was meant for me," Balasabas, who had a 300 total over 72 holes. "I played so bad, but the others did worse."

Fernando improved by one spot from third overnight after an 81 for 306. He nipped first-round leader Rufino Bayron by two after the brother of RP Team member and former caddies champion Jay closed with an 86.

Balasabas, Fernando and Bayron will comprise the second batch of scholars to the NCO program, which will house, feed and fund their training in Calatagan under the auspices of the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation.

"This is our ticket to improving our lives, let's not waste this chance," Balasabas addressed the rest of the field during the awards ceremony.

The fifth son in a brood of eight of a crane operator based in Jolo, Balasabas will see family and friends for the first time since January last year, when he left home to join the first staging of this tourney backed by Pagcor and San Miguel Corp.

Apo Golf's Paul Echavez, a pint-sized 17-year-old playing in his first big tournament, shot the day's best score—a 77—to finish fourth at 312, seven up on Valley's Dondon Osabel (78-319) and 11 on sixth-placer Jomar Pepito (78-322).

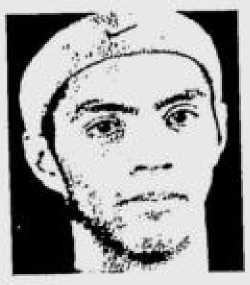
Rounding out the top 10 were Anthony Victoria (81-324), and Joemar Nuñez (83), Jeff Tumbaga (84), Bonifacio Ramos (86) and Gary Sales (87), all with 325 totals.

The tournament's officers saw talent outside of the top three finishers. Echavez, Zannie Boy Gialon, also of Apo, and Victoria, a 5-foot-10 long-hitter from Northwoods have also been invited to join the program.

"We are confident that in three years' time, we will have produced a member of the Philippine team," businessman Hermie Esguerra echoed tournament co-chair Benjamin Abalos.

THIRD placer Rufino Bayron (left) rides piggyback on champion Jesse Balasabas after the latter clinched the title. ERIK ARAZAS

Santos out to end PBL career with victory



SANTOS: One more

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN THE 2006 PBL UNITY CUP KICKS OFF on March 25, it will mark the final amateur stint of several top players, including Magnolia's Arwind Santos.

"I have one more conference to show them that I'm ready (for the pro league)," said Santos in Filipino at the Scoop sa Kamayan session on Padre Faura yesterday.

Although Santos already awed pro scouts many times over, the former Far Eastern U star wants to leave in grand fashion by leading the Magnolia Spinners to their second straight title.

"My focus now is the PBL," said Santos, who bagged his second straight UAAP Most Valuable Player plum last year. "I already finished my playing years in FEU and I was able to reach my goal, which is to get the championship."

Magnolia will battle Granny Goose at 4 p.m., following the Montana-TeleTech opener at 2 p.m. next Saturday at the San Andres Gym.

"Our training and practice sessions are ongoing," said Magnolia team governor Chito Loyzaga. "It seems hard to win back-to-back. But it's the challenge given to the coaching staff and players, for them to show what they're made of."

Magnolia rose from a 0-2 deficit in the recent best-of-five finals series versus Rain or Shine to bag the Heroes Cup.

PHILAM LIFE
3rd Cycling Search Invitational 2006
3rd Leg At Angeles City Pampanga
March 18, 2006 8:00 AM

MARCH 18,2006

Presented by:
PHILPOST
PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION
IN COOPERATION WITH:
PAGCOR Casino Filipino
PCSO
Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
AIR21
SADOT KO, PADALA MO!
SPEED Detergent Bar & Powder
AKTIVADE
PHILCYCLING
YES! FM101.1

Iligan Crusaders battle Cotabato Braves today

ILIGAN CITY—FIREFLY ELECTronics-backed Iligan and expansion team North Cotabato open their respective campaigns in the National Basketball Conference today when they clash at the MSU-IIT gym here.

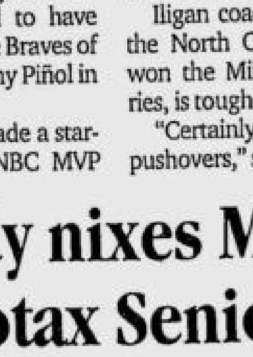
The Crusaders of Mayor Lawrence Cruz are expected to have their hands full against the Braves of North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol in the 6 p.m. game.

The Crusaders will parade a star-studded lineup led by NBC MVP Chris Nicdao, former UST Tiger Derrick Hubalde and ex-UE Warrior Ollan Omiping in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Nature's Spring, Firefly Electronics, Molten and Prime Channel.

Iligan coach Jun Longalong said the North Cotabato squad, which won the Mindanao pre-season series, is tough to beat.

"Certainly, they [Braves] are no pushovers," said Longalong.

Kart body nixes Madrigal bid in Rotax Senior race



MADRIGAL

KARTING PRODIGY Alessandra Madrigal's bid to compete in the Rotax Max Senior category of the Super Karting Series' first leg this weekend at the Carmona Circuit in Cavite has been turned down by the Philippine International Karting Association (Pika).

Madrigal, 10, is coming off two big wins in the recent KT Invitational 2006 against much older rivals and had wanted to prove her victories were no fluke by competing again this weekend.

Under Pika rules, only drivers 15 years and older are eligible to race in the Senior category.

Alessandra Racing Team owner Gerard Madrigal, however, sought an exemption from the Automobile Association of the Philippines, the governing body for motorsport in the country, which was granted in the form of a waiver that will only cover this weekend's races.

The AAP also stressed that Alessandra will not be entitled to any points.

Despite the waiver, however, the board of directors of Pika, which oversees all local karting competitions, turned down Alessandra's bid. The Pika board is led by JP Tuason, one of the karters Alessandra defeated in the KT Invitational who is also running in the Rotax Max Senior category.

"After seeing Alessandra put in all the hard work and energy in practice, wherein she consistently clocked times that were equal or faster to those of other drivers, we are extremely disappointed in this decision that was made on the basis of her age rather than her skill," said the elder Madrigal.

The same dilemma

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

APART FROM BEING both chaotic and controversial, local basketball and chess have something else in common. The two have been suspended by their respective international federations—the Fiba for basketball, Fide for chess.

While the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) has not been suspended by the Fiba, the country has been banned from joining any Fiba-sanctioned tournament after the BAP's expulsion from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP), on the other hand, was suspended by the Fide for non-payment of dues, and consequently banned from playing in any Fide-sanctioned competition.

***

For the NCFP, the lifting of the ban should be simple, particularly now that Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay has been installed as president of the organization.

Butch, whose mission is to bring back the golden years of Philippine chess, is going all out to achieve this goal.

"Of course, we will pay our back dues. *Napabayaan lang kasi yan ng* former dispensation. We have to do this immediately because we need to form as soon as possible the team that will compete in the World Chess Olympiad in Italy this May. We don't have too much time to prepare," said Butch the day after the NCFP board elections held at the Manila Hotel's Cowrie Grill.

According to Butch, the association owes the Fide 8,000 Euros, or about P400,000.

***

For basketball, it's going to be another tumultuous struggle for the lifting of the Fiba ban. At this point, I do not see even the tiniest ray of light at the end of the tunnel.

After working together for weeks to draft a new constitution and by-laws for the "new" cage body, Joey Lina and the four other basketball stakeholders—the PBA, the PBL, the UAAP and the NCAA—had a falling-out.

Joey wanted to retain the name "BAP" and make only minor amendments to the original BAP constitution and by-laws, but POC president Peping Cojuangco would not hear of it. He reportedly wanted an entirely new organization with a new name.

"We met four times, using the process outlined by Fiba sec-gen Patrick Baumannn in his [memorandum of understanding] with the POC," Joey said. "Later in the fifth meeting, which I was unable to attend because I was preparing for a trip abroad, Noli Eala, who had been our facilitator, briefed the stakeholders on his recent conversation with Peping Cojuangco where the latter told him that the process was unacceptable, and that the name BAP will also have to be changed.

"In the beginning, we were all in one big circle. At this point, the stakeholders drew a smaller circle and kept me out."

***

As far as Noli is concerned, there is no rift between him and Joey.

"As I've said many times in the past, all of us have one objective, that is to lift the suspension of Fiba on the Philippines," Noli said.

"In the end, though, we differed on how to get there. Just like him, I stand on principles and convictions, based on a personal, professional and full understanding of the options presented to the stakeholders.

"I'd like to think we both still have mutual respect for one another. Whether he wanted major or minor revision in the constitution and by-laws is no longer the point. At the end of the day, his loyalty to his organization became more important than accepting the overwhelming sentiment of the majority."

Noli said he respects Joey for this. "I hope he also accords us the same kind of respect.

"*Hindi naman siguro kami tau-tauhan lamang ng kahit na sino,* that we will allow ourselves to be dictated upon as to what option to finally take. We have done our part. Perhaps the BAP should examine itself and see if they had done theirs."

***

So where does the BAP go from here?

"We move on. We will make the necessary amendments in the constitution, by-laws and structure of the organization and present this to the Fiba," said Lina.

Hey, I forgot to ask Noli if there's a fundamental difference between the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. and Pilipinas Basketball, the new group.

Because if there's none, except the name, what will keep the Fiba from junking Pilipinas Basketball the way it did the PBFI?

Scribe's sis laid to rest today

THE REMAINS OF ELEONOR DISTRITO CRUZ-Elginger, who died last Feb. 21 in Tarrant, Texas, will be laid to rest today at the St. Michael Cemetery in Molino II, Bacoor, Cavite after a 9 a.m. mass. Elginger, sister of Abante Tonite sports reporter Ramil D. Cruz, died at 43 due to intracelebral hemorrhage. Her remains have lain in state at 254 Amenti Street, Block 8, Barangay Kapitan Kua, Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite.

MARCH MADNESS: Duke Blue Devils star guard JJ Redick (left) challenges Southwen University Jaguars defender Alvin Mott. The sweet-shooting Redick had 29 points in a 70-54 Duke victory to advance in the first round of the NCAA tournament. AFP

Mexico ousts US

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—OLIVER Perez and seven relievers combined to pitch a three-hitter Thursday and lead Mexico past the United States, 2-1, eliminating the Americans from the inaugural World Baseball Classic and putting Japan in the semifinals.

South Korea had a 3-0 second-round record in Group One, with the United States, Japan and Mexico all going 1-2. Japan earned the second semifinal berth from the group by allowing the fewest runs in games between the tied teams.

Japan, which has already lost twice to South Korea in the Classic, faces its archrival in Saturday's second semifinal game in San Diego, with the Dominican Republic meeting Cuba in the daytime opener. The winners play Monday for the championship.

Perez allowed only one hit in three scoreless innings, and the Mexican bullpen retired 12 straight batters until Chipper Jones drew a one-out walk off Jorge De La Rosa in the ninth. *AP*

Wade fuels Heat rally

MIAMI—DWYANE Wade scored one basket in the first 22½ minutes but finished with 30 points, helping the Miami Heat erase a 25-point deficit to beat the Boston Celtics, 107-104, in the NBA on Thursday.

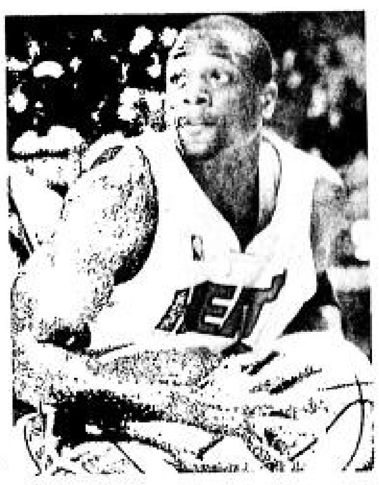
The comeback matched the largest in the league this season. Chicago rallied from a 25-point deficit to beat Charlotte on Nov. 2.

Boston's Orien Greene was short with a 3-point attempt at the buzzer that would have forced overtime.

The Heat fell behind, 59-34, late in the second quarter, and as usual, didn't panic. They trailed at halftime for the seventh time in the past eight games, but they've lost only once during the stretch.

Miami climbed a season-best 22 games above .500, winning for the 13th time in the past 14 games.

Paul Pierce scored 34 for Boston and Wally Szczerbiak added 30, his highest total since joining the Celtics in late January.



WADE: Rallying point REUTERS

In Seattle, Ray Allen scored 26 points to help the SuperSonics edge a short-handed Philadelphia 76ers squad, 102-98.

Philadelphia was missing Allen Iverson, who sprained his right foot early in last Sunday's win in Memphis. He did not play in Tuesday's loss at home to Toronto and didn't accompany the Sixers to Seattle. Coach Maurice Cheeks said Iverson would not play on Friday in Los Angeles against the Clippers.

The Sixers have lost five of six.

Trailing 94-92, Chris Webber missed consecutive short jumpers that could have pulled the 76ers even. After the second miss, Seattle's Earl Watson ripped the rebound away from Steven Hunter, then found Allen on the wing for a 3-pointer with 54.8 seconds left.

Hunter scored a career-high 20 points and blocked six shots for Philadelphia.

In Oakland, California, Mike Dunleavy scored 17 of his season-high 24 points in the fourth quarter, and the Golden State Warriors provided the final setback on the worst road trip in Minnesota's history with a 105-97 taming of the Timberwolves. *AP*

- **NBA on SOLAR SPORTS:** 8:30 a.m.—Portland vs Cleveland (replay at 7 p.m)

MICROVAN
(02) 984-0278/79
MEGA SALE!
on March 31, 2006 • Starts at 8:30 a.m. sharp.

Federer, Dementieva gain Pacific semis

INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA—ROGER Federer swept past Ivan Ljubicic, 6-2, 6-3, to reach the semifinals and keep alive his quest for a third successive Pacific Life Open title on Thursday. Last year, Federer also beat the Croatian in straight sets on his way to championship, but he had to win two tiebreakers in that fourth-round match. On the women's side, top-seeded Justine Henin-Hardenne downed Gisela Dulko of Argentina, 6-3, 6-2, without offering a break chance, and Elena Dementieva beat Ana Ivanovic, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. Henin-Hardenne and Dementieva will play in one of Friday's semifinals, with Martina Hingis and Maria Sharapova meeting in the other. Henin-Hardenne was the 2004 tournament champion but did not play at Indian Wells last year because of an injury. Dementieva bounced back from a shaky start against 18-year-old Ivanovic, from Belgrade. *AP*

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Sorsogon
Municipality of Donsol

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Local Government of Donsol, Sorsogon through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Small "B" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Construction of San Antonio - Sitio Bantaron - Gogon Farm-to-Market Road
Location : Donsol, Sorsogon
Brief Description : 5.25 kilometers road construction
Approved Budget Cost : Php 9,557,543.28
Contract Duration : 144 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should posses a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	March 28- April 3, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 28-April 3, 2006
3. Deadline for the Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	April 3, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	April 5, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 6-12, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	April 8, 2006; 1:00 PM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 19, 2006; 2:00 PM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders *Eligibility Forms* at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall *Donsol, Sorsogon* upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos only (Php 3,000.00) to the LGU of *Donsol's* Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

1. Cash/certified check/cashier's check/manager's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of ABC which is P95,575.44;
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount of P238,938.59 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or by a reputable surety or insurance company and to be posted in favor of LGU - *Donsol, Sorsogon.*

The BAC will issue *Bidding Documents* only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos only (Php 5,000.00) to the LGU *of Donsol's* Cashier.

The LGU of Donsol reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. HELENE A. GARAY
BAC Chairman

AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES PROJECT
Province of Sorsogon
Municipality of Donsol

APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT

Name of Subproject : Construction of San Antonio - Sitio Bantoron - Gogon Farm to Market Road
Length/Units : 5.25 Meters
Contract Duration : 144 W.D.

Item No.	Item Description	QUANTITY	UNIT	ESTIMATED COST
	GENERAL	1.00	LS	163,196.00
	Item 100	31,515.60	SQ.M.	199,784.00
	Item 102	19,858.70	cu.m.	1,661,744.00
	Item 103	754 67	cu.m.	105,680.00
	Item 104	7,927.00	cu.m.	1,365,866.00
	Item 105	31,515.60	SQ.M.	340,680.00
	Item 200	5,851.65	cu.m.	3,257,692.80
	Item 405	55.08	cu.m.	284,336.00
	Item 407	3,963.80	KG	187,320.60
	Item 500	21.00	l.m.	61,809.00
	Item 500	91.00	l.m.	215,911.00
	Item 504		cu.m.	
	Item 505	59.44	cu.m.	120,620.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED DIRECT COST				*7,964,619.40*
CONTRACTOR'S TAX - 10% (Direct Cost)				796,461.94
CONTRACTOR'S PROFIT - [10% (Direct Cost)]				796,461.94
MATERIALS TESTING				
TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT				9,557,543.28
Loan Proceed		DAR/GOP		LGU
8,605,585.34		796,461.94		155,496.00

(PDI - March 18 & 25, 2006)

HEAD-TURNING DEALS

100% SATISFACTION!

BRACE YOURSELVES
for the most head-spinning
deals from NISSAN yet.

Storm away with a sizzling
hot X-TRAIL, or glide home
in a cool SENTRA istyle
through truly flexible and
light ownership plans.

Get your NISSAN while
they're hot!

114 K DOWNPAYMENT
FOR THE NISSAN X-TRAIL 200

7,260 MONTHLY
FOR THE NISSAN SENTRA GX AT

0% INTEREST
ZERO INTEREST
FOR THE FIRST 24 MONTHS

MODEL	SRP	LOW DP	LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT*					
			12**	18**	24**	36	48	60
Sentra 1.3 GX AT	*660,000*	*66,000*	*27,500*	*18,333*	*13,750*	*10,267*	*8,250*	*7,260*
Sentra 1.6 GSX MT	*730,000*	*73,000*	*30,417*	*20,278*	*15,208*	*11,356*	*9,125*	*8,030*
Sentra 1.6 GSX AT	*770,000*	*77,000*	*32,083*	*21,389*	*16,042*	*11,978*	*9,625*	*8,470*
Sentra 1.6 GS AT	*815,000*	*81,500*	*33,958*	*22,639*	*16,979*	*12,678*	*10,188*	*8,965*
X-TRAIL 200 4x2	*1,140,000*	*114,000*	*47,500*	*31,667*	*23,750*	*17,733*	*14,250*	*12,540*
X-TRAIL 200X 4x4	*1,250,000*	*125,000*	*52,083*	*34,722*	*26,042*	*19,444*	*15,625*	*13,750*
X-TRAIL 250X 4x4	*1,360,000*	*136,000*	*56,667*	*37,778*	*28,333*	*21,156*	*17,000*	*14,960*

NISMO COMPLETE CAR PACKAGES
Race Home With Your NISMO Car

NISMO Sentra available for the GSX M/T only

NISMO X-TRAIL available for the 4x2 model only

FREEBIES: 1-yr LTO registration. Window tint. Floor matting. Seat covers. Early Warning Device. Car shade. Ballpen. Umbrella. T-shirt and Ambipur • NISMO complete car package also available for bank financing
Promo duration: March 17 to April 15, 2006 • Other special financing packages available for the Cefiro and Serena • All financing packages are subject to bank approval. Per DTI-Region IV-A Permit No. 03-036, Series of 2006.

NISSAN

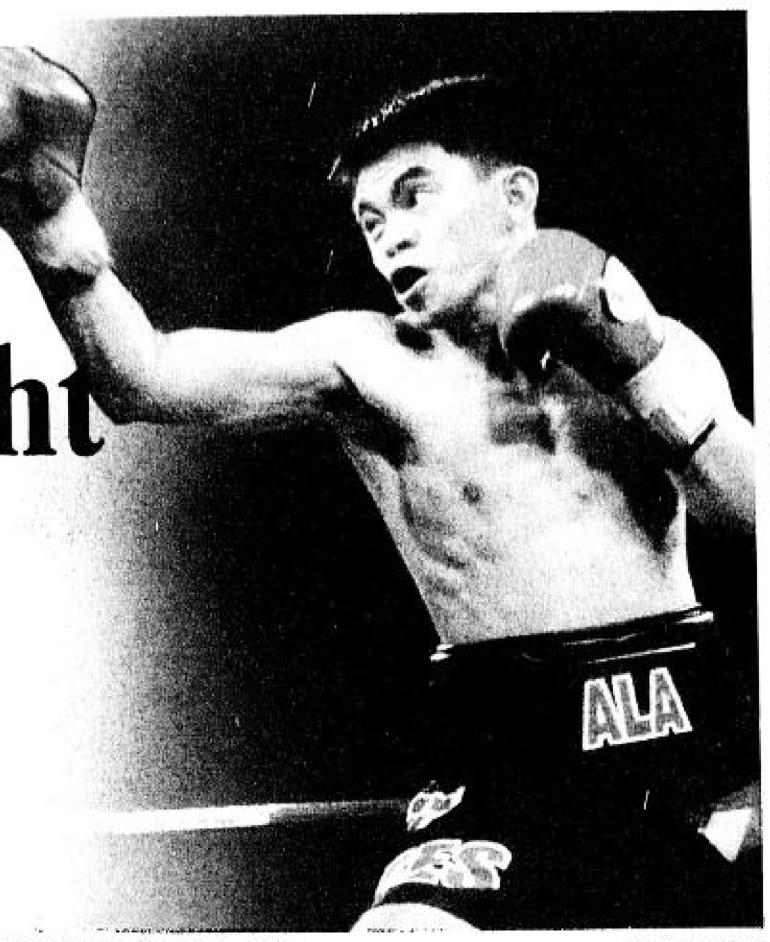
Assembled and distributed by
NISSAN MOTOR
PHILIPPINES, INC.
visit www.nissan.com.ph

Nissan Gallery Quezon Ave.
731-5308 • 711-6486 • Fax. 740-3066
Nissan Shaw Center
722-7870/7576
Nissan U.N. Ave. Manila
400-1020/2177/1622 • 404-2439
Nissan Commonwealth
932-0428 • 932-4001 • Fax: 931-6087

Nissan Westgate Alabang
772-1826 to 30 • 775-0239 • Fax: 772-1877
Nissan North EDSA Balintawak
330-5331 • 361-9995 • 455-8980
Nissan Southwoods
(046) 430-1683 • (046) 241-3040 • (02) 699-2400
Nissan Manila, Inc.
252-3568 • 251-9056/9060 to 63

Mantrade Development Corp.
843-3316 to 23 • 812-7701/7743/7752
Nissan Gallery Ortigas
635-5888 • Fax. 633-2543
Royce Motors
Cabanatuan: (044) 463-3358 • 600-5328
Pampanga: (045) 961-7773/7774
Santiago: (078) 682-8701/6707
Tugegarao: (078) 844-2523 • 846-2523

Gorres eyes OPBF crown vs Thai tonight



MOMENT of truth for Z Gorres

EDWIN BACASMAS

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

WILL IT BE A DREAM COME true or a nightmare for Z Gorres tonight?

The southpaw Gorres battles Thai toughie Waenpetch Chuwatana for the vacant OPBF super fly title in a 12-round war headlining a 10-bout card dubbed "A Dream Come True" at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

Both Gorres, who holds a 22-win, 1-loss, 1-draw mark with 12 knockouts, and Chuwatana, who carries a record of 23-7-2, 14 KOs, came in at 115 lbs during the official weigh-in yesterday at the ALA Gym.

All eyes will be on Gorres, however, as executives of Oscar De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions, will be at special ringside to assess his full potential.

Gorres, who hails from Mandaue City, is coming off a one-sided decision win over Jose Alfredo Tirado last Feb. 3 in Las Vegas, where he impressed boxing pundits with his all-around skills.

In the chief support, WBO Asia-Pacific super-featherweight boss Czar Amonsot goes up against Thai Dechco Bankluaygym in a 10-round non-title showdown.

An RP championship showdown for the vacant flyweight title also takes place between ALA Boy Rocky Fuentes and Wakee Salud protege Jojo Bardon.

Tierro bows to Austrian

PATRICK JOHN TIERRO BOWED TO THE BIGGER AND STRONGER TOP seed Herbert Wiltschnig of Austria, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, yesterday in the quarterfinals of the $25,000 New Delhi Masters at the RK Khanna Stadium.

Tolomia . . .

From page A23

10 rebounds.

The game marked the first time since the league started keeping track of double-doubles that at least four players from one squad pulled off such a feat.

Air21's Niño Canaleta had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Yancy de Ocampo had 14 points and 10 boards, Mark Telan added 2 markers and 11 rebounds while Ranidel de Ocampo chipped in 10 points and 10 boards for the Express, who dropped to a 1-2 record in a tie with the Realtors.

San Miguel Beer dumped Barangay Ginebra, 77-59, in the second game to tie its victim at 2-1.

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 102—Duremdes 30, Espino 24, Tolomia 11, Aquino 11, Mendoza 8, Omolon 7, Cabagnot 5, Calli 2, Calimag 2, Agapito 2.

AIR21 100—Canaleta 19, De Ocampo 14, Ritualo 13, Tubid 12, Telan 12, De Ocampo 10, Dacia 8, Se 6, Arboleda 4, Bernardo 2, Fran 0.

Quarters: 30-23, 55-53, 82-76, 102-100.

LACDAO (left) with Asian Vision Cable Holdings head Francisco "Paco" Magsaysay.

Lacdao shows 'em in Magsaysay golf

RAYMOND LACDAO MADE THE MOST OF A virtually windless day at the Ayala Greenfield Estate Golf and Leisure Club in Calamba, Laguna, to rule the recent 3rd Annual Ramon Magsaysay Golf Cup.

Lacdao beat a field that included players from the corporate world and politics to win the overall title of the tournament organized by the Asian Vision Cable Holdings Inc.

Proceeds of the tourament will benefit the youth of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF). This year, the foundation plans to hold the Magsaysay Fellowship program, the school's partnership program and the Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition.

The event is co-presented by Accion, Ayala Foundation, CCAP, Citibank, Globe Telecom, HBO/Cinemax, Oishi, Royal Cablevision Inc., Southern Cross Cement, and San Miguel Corp.

SPORTSWATCH

Big field expected in women's fun run

PREPARATIONS ARE IN FULL GEAR FOR THE WOMEN'S EKIDEN FUN RUN slated to fire off March 26 at the Quirino Grandstand. The fun run aims to promote gender equality in sports and is the culminating activity of the Philippine Sports Commission's Women in Sports 2006 Program in celebration of the National Women's Month activities. Entries of five women runners per team in the fun run's 5K and 10K races for Corporate and Open Categories will be accepted until 5 p.m. on March 23. Entry forms can be downloaded at www.psc.gov.ph/Women. Entry fee is P1,500.00 per team.

FVR-Golden Sunset golf at Calatagan set

LOCAL GOLF CELEBRITIES, ENTHUSIASTS, TOP CORPORATE EXECUTIVES join the prime movers and shakers of the country on the first tee in the FVR-Golden Sunset Invitational Golf Tournament which tees off Thursday at the Calatagan Golf Club in Calatagan, Batangas. The tournament starts at 8 a.m. with a ceremonial tee-off by former President Fidel V. Ramos. Big prizes, including a car for a hole-in-one, Honda motorcycle, Trip to Boracay via Seair, cash and merchandize prizes await the winners, according to Cris Aquino, chief operating officer of Golden Sunset Resort and Spa.

Arroyo-Jiao, Santos-Araneta pairs prevail

RED CREEK I (RCI) OF IGGY ARROYO AND BOY JIAO DEMOLISHED ALL its opponents Wednesday night to share the championship with Jade Resort Juliane (JRJ) of Manny Santos and Eddie Araneta in the mid-March 7-cock derby of the National Cockers Association at Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. It was a come-from-behind victory for RCI, which got only 2 points in the first round Tuesday night, while JRJ and Firefly 14 of Frankie Uy each scored 3 points. In the championship round, JRJ lost its fifth and seventh fights to RCI and Jaen Col. VGB Firefly, respectively, to share second place with Firefly RM 13 of William Go with 5 points each. BR Fatman S Bacolod of Tony Tan and Pepito Ngo scored 4.5 points after it tied with Magic Wing Sundance of Ronnie Puno in their fifth fight. The final NCA derby for the month is scheduled March 27 and 29 with Boyet Joson and Ellan Nagano as hosts.

Makati 3-cock derby kicks off today

MORE THAN 60 MATCHES ARE ON TAP IN THE "SENTENCIADOR 3-COCK Derby" today at the Makati Coliseum. A total cash pot of P200,000 await the winners in the derby sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace. Entry fee is P5,500. Today's hosts are veteran cockfight referees Berong Javellana, Rommel Pinuela, Benjie Francisco and Rommel Angeles. Also slated at Makati Coliseum are the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby on March 20, the ABC Liga 3-cock derby on March 22 and the Jobo 5-cock derby on March 27. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

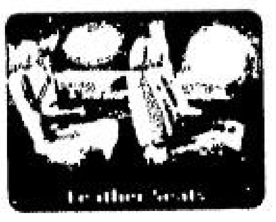
Third round of 'Una Hirit' 4-cocker on

THE THIRD AND LAST 2-COCK ELIMINATION ROUND OF THE BLOCKBUSTER "Unang Hirit No Entry Fee 4-Cock Derby" blasts off today at the San Juan Coliseum with 75 fights sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The total number of entries has ballooned to 200, according to host Aba Badiola. The qualifiers dispute the title on Monday, where a guaranteed prize of P1.2 million will be divided among the winners. "Considering that this is a 'no entry fee' derby, the P1.2 million prize is a giveaway," said Badiola, who is being supported by SJC management. For inquiries, call 0917-8264018 or 725-6563.

Super Pacman heads Largahan entry list

BOXING HERO MANNY PACQUIAO'S DERBY ENTRY "SUPER PACMAN" head the list of favorites in today's "Largahan 5-Cock Derby" finals at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Pacquiao is expected to field prized fighters from his General Santos City game farm which won him a big Metro Manila derby recently. The 2006 Largahan, hosted by promoter Rolly Ligon, has attracted 360 participants. The fastest-win champion will drive home a brand new Toyota Vios. With more than 200 fights slated today, the first fight kicks off at 10 a.m. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

NBX
THE POWERFUL 2.3L ENGINE IS A STANDARD FEATURE. SO IS THE BABE MAGNET.



2.3L DOHC Engine

The New Ford Escape NBX Limited Edition

You'll fall in love with the performance of the 2.3L engine. But everyone else will be smitten by the dual-tone exterior, clear headlamps, 16-inch alloy wheels and sporty two-tone leather interior. A combination of looks and substance that a rare few will enjoy.

For every Ford vehicle sold, P3,000 goes to the road safety program

www.ford.com.ph

Ford Solutions

Ford Financing call 635-1251

• Ford Alabang, Trunk Lines: 842-3681 / 842-4628, Fax No 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line: 927-9648, Fax No 927-5988 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel Nos: 952-9188, 952-9441, 952-9446 Fax No.: 952-9440 • Ford EDSA Greenhills, Tel No 744-2222, Fax No 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel No 723-7029
• Ford Libis, Trunk Line: 637-2044, Fax No: 637-6008 • Ford Global City, Trunkline 860 8888, Fax No: 818 5000 • Ford Manila, Tel No 562-5555 Fax No. 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel. Nos 731-2617 / 742-3435 / 742-3436 Fax 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line 717-4868, Telefax 717-1390
• Ford Pampanga, Trunk Line (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos (045) 963-5205 / 961 2777 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel No (044) 464-0111, Fax No (044) 600-4200 • Ford Dagupan, Tel No (075) 522-2222, Telefax (075) 515-5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel No (049) 562-9186, Telefax (049) 562-8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel No (046) 472-2040, Fax (046) 472-2048
• Ford Cebu, Trunk Line: (032) 231-9180, Fax No. (032) 231-9023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel No (034) 432-2151, Telefax (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iloilo, Tel. No (033) 321-3352, Telefax No (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel. No. (088) 855-8811, Telefax (088) 856-8877 • Ford Davao, Tel No (082) 234-1111, Fax No (082) 234-2222 • Ford Credit, Tel No.: 635-1251

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SATURDAY Special

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).

PORTMAN. A sight to behold.

NOW SHOWING

Art imitates life in film adaptation of graphic novel

By Rito P. Asilo

"V for Vendetta"

D: James McTeigue
S: Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving

ART IMITATES LIFE IN JAMES McTeigue and the Wachowski brothers' big-screen adaptation of Alan Moore's 1989 graphic novel about a masked vigilante, V (Hugo Weaving) and his ward, Evey (Natalie Portman), and their valiant—and violent—attempt to overthrow an abusive, totalitarian government.

The film's socio-political tone packs a relevant punch and resonates with incendiary pertinence: Social unrest, censorship, sexual repression, discrimination, greed and corruption, religious extremism, terrorism—name it. Do they ring a bell?

Set more than a decade into the future in post-World War III Great Britain against the backdrop of a neo-fascist environment, the movie initially bristles and bustles with its riveting arguments about politics and the peace process.

The production's visual flair and technical polish complement the tortured soul of Portman's doe-eyed heroine: She and the film are a sight to behold—bald pate or not.

But, there's something amiss about an omniscient predator in a Guy Fawkes mask—yes, *we* get the film's Orwellian "Big Brother is watching" drift—who quotes Shakespeare as he slices and dices his prey. And the movie soon loses momentum—a victim of its surprisingly unsympathetic protagonist and his protracted ideological prattle.

"She's the Man"

D: Andy Fickman
S: Amanda Bynes, Channing Tatum

"Clueless" meets "Yentl" in Andy Fickman's cross-dressing, gender-bending teenage comedy inspired by—hold your breath!—Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," about Viola (Amanda Bynes), who, to prove a point, disguises as her twin brother, Sebastian (James Kirk), after the girls' soccer team in high school is canceled.

Unfortunately, she falls in love with her roommate, Duke (Channing Tatum), who's infatuated with "Sebastian's" lab partner, Olivia (Laura Ramsey)—who develops a crush on her! Confused? Well, so is the movie. But, at least, Bynes, Tatum and company play their characters with self-deprecating charm and youthful zest to make up for the film's utter lack of originality.

"Hostel"

D: Eli Roth
S: Jay Hernandez, Derek Richardson, Eythor Gudjonsson

Talk about slice and dice. Eli Roth's bloodthirsty film aesthetics is nothing but gratuitous sex and gore: Three backpackers—two Americans, Paxton and Josh (Jay Hernandez and Derek Richardson, respectively) and an Icelander, Oli (Eythor Gudjonsson)—embark on an "adventure" of a lifetime after they're tipped off about a youth hostel somewhere in Eastern Europe, where endless booze and ravishing Slovakian babes can be theirs for the taking.

What's even better, the voluptuous vixens are said to be *crazy* about American men. What luck! But, the trio's dream holiday soon turns into a matter of life and death when they realize that "crazy" is a relative word, like "love"—and "pain." And only people with a fetish for sado-masochism will find this revolting, ultraviolent piece of cinematic schlock entertaining.

'PBB's' human dynamics may not be as real as they seem

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'D LIKE TO SHARE insights into "Pinoy Big Brother" we've gained from a colleague who's worked with the reality challenge's first batch of "housemates."

Challenge

All along, the challenge has made a big deal of its ability to showcase people behaving and talking as themselves—what you see is what you get, no acting, no artifice. That's why "PBB" describes itself as the "telenovela *ng totoong buhay.*"

MILBY. Was he just faking it?

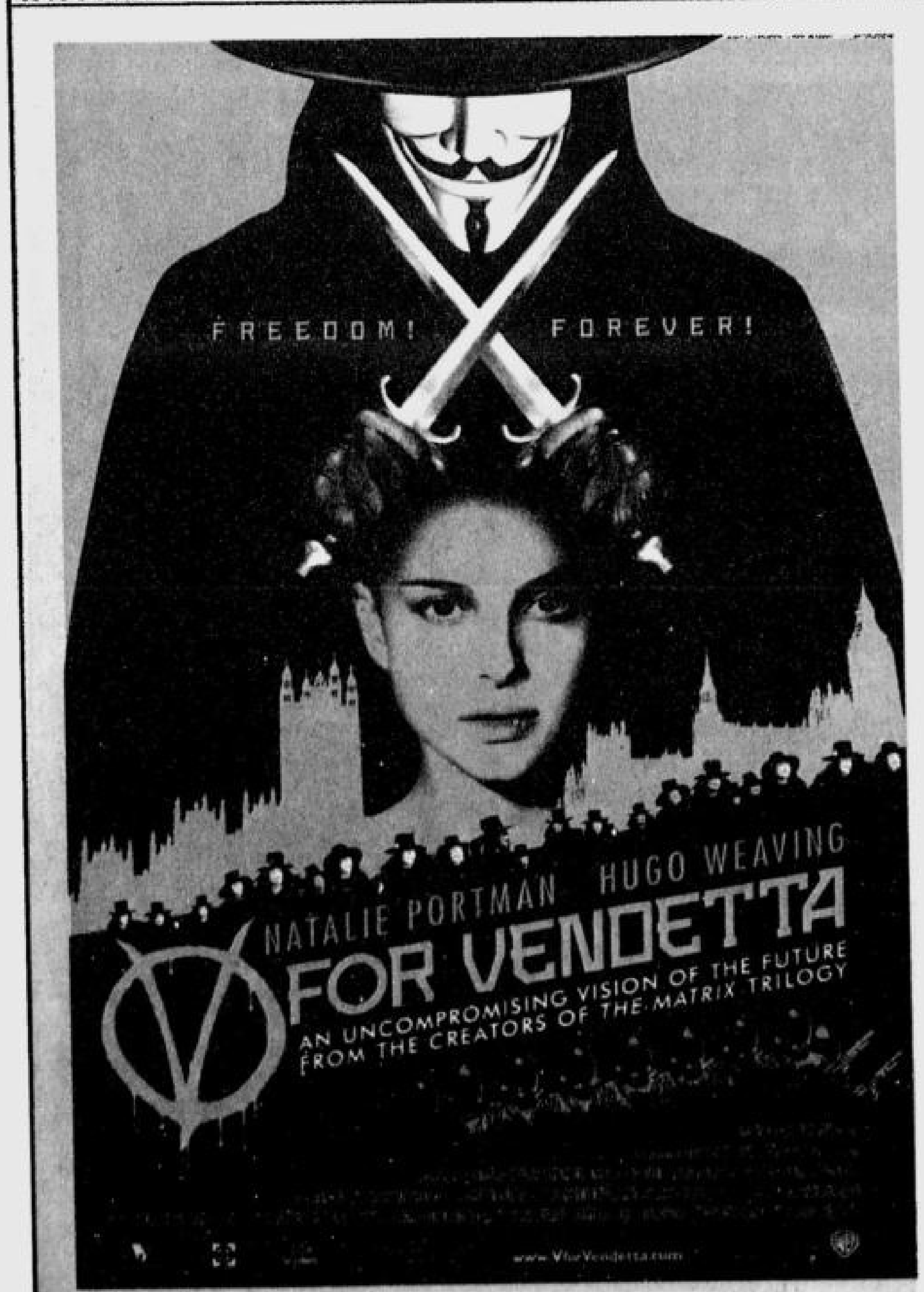
Viewers like this "reality" aspect to the show, because it enables them to peep and eavesdrop into real people's lives, thus feeding off local viewers' propensity for gossip and "making *pakialam.*"

On the positive side, lessons learned from peeping into the show's unfolding human dynamics could inform and enhance viewers' own lives.

It turns out, however, that "PBB" *is* a show, and not 100-percent real. As our colleague informs us, the relative unknowns in the first batch weren't really being themselves all the time, contrary to the program's avowed

'PBB'S'/ A2-3

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13YRS. OLD AND ABOVE


FREEDOM! FOREVER!
NATALIE PORTMAN HUGO WEAVING
V FOR VENDETTA
AN UNCOMPROMISING VISION OF THE FUTURE FROM THE CREATORS OF THE MATRIX TRILOGY
www.VforVendetta.com

Unlimited bonding?
Kayang-kaya sa
Globe UNLIMITXT

For good na!

As low as P15/day!

For Postpaid and Prepaid
(Globe-to-Globe)

P15 for 1 day Text **UNLIMITXT15** to **2870**

P25 for 2 days Text **UNLIMITXT25** to **2870**

P50 for 5 days Text **UNLIMITXT50** to **2870**

Prepaid subscribers must have at least P1 load to enjoy the service. Postpaid subscribers must consume their free SMS before availing of the service. Users can only register to one denomination at a given time. Regular rates apply until users receive confirmation of activation. The service will be activated within 24-hours after registration. The expiry period for Prepaid Globe Unlimitxt offer is different from your regular load expiry period. Globe Unlimitxt is not available while subscriber is on Prepaid International Roaming mode.

Now you can easily renew your Globe Unlimitxt subscription!
You will receive a reminder message 6 hours before the expiration of your Globe Unlimitxt.
Just reply YES to renew your subscription.

sa Globe posible

ALANDY. Topbills Paolo Herras' directorial film debut.

'LAMBANOG'

Love in a bottle

By Noelani Torre

IN THE INDEPENDENT DIGITAL FILM, "Lambanog," the question of whether love can indeed be found in a bottle is answered in several ways. Written and directed by Paolo Herras, the movie gets its title from a bottle of coconut wine that plays a pivotal role in the story—one which you'll just have to find out for yourself.

Suffice it to say that it gives truth to the saying *in vino veritas*, though this particular vintage has something more than mere alcohol content working for it.

The film revolves around five characters—Mark (Luis Alandy); his best friend, Eric (Lauren Novero); Eric's new girlfriend, Hasmin (CJ Mercado); Rico (John Lapus), the landlord of Mark's old home, and the mysterious *lambanog* vendor, Maria (Danica Sotto)—and their individual love stories.

Concept

"I decided to make this movie because, at first, I thought it wasn't ambitious," says Herras. "The story happens in one day and in one location. But then, it became bigger and bigger. The stories started inching their way out. They were elliptically intertwined, and I just had to push the concept further."

"Lambanog" is Herras' first film. "I didn't take the short-film route," he says, "though I did write scripts before for ABS-CBN and ABC." Currently a masteral student at UP Diliman with a degree in comparative literature, his background is really on writing.

Paolo's strong writing background manifests itself in the narrative and character-driven film. He concentrates on telling the story, not distracting the viewer with puzzling "experimental" camera work, unless it's specifically demanded by the scene.

Tribute

The film is "supposed to be a tribute to a modern-day Maria Makiling," he explains. "Mysterious and, this time, brown." This would be the *lambanog* vendor—Danica Sotto, in an atypical, more serious role. But, the best performance in the film, however, is John Lapus', who steals every scene he's in. You can also keep your eyes peeled for brief appearances from Raymond Bagatsing, Pinky Amador, Soliman Cruz and Roxanne Barcelo.

"My concept of storytelling is that history can't be told by just one voice," says Herras. Hence the interlocking of the characters' seemingly separate narratives. It's a technique that is reminiscent of such films as "Red Violin" and "L'Appartement."

"Lambanog" premiered at the UP Film Center last week. "We'll send it to festivals abroad," says Herras. This is the path taken by most indie productions these days—and you *just* have to admire their filmmakers' guts and perseverance.

SHANG CINEPLEX
LEVEL 6, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA
Enjoy first class entertainment at amazing prices!
MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
Ticket prices at ₱99
For Cinemas 1-4
Starting March 20!

Premiere Theatre Monday and Tuesday special prices at P120

Mechanics:
1. Special prices are applicable for the whole day, on Mondays and Tuesdays (except on holidays).
2. P99 per ticket for Cinemas 1-4; P120 per ticket for the Premiere Theatre (without food and drinks).
3. Not applicable to selected movies and sneak previews.
4. No further discounts on above-mentioned special prices. Not applicable in conjunction with other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
5. Monday and Tuesday Specials take effect on March 20, 2006, until further notice.

All the movies you want to see on the big screen
NOW SHOWING at the Star Group of Malls

starmall EDSA SHAW
Tel. No. 726.8150
3: Hostel
4: Under Renovation
5: House of Fury

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.4285
1: The Dark
2: Hostel
3: Vendetta
4: Fearless

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls!
Every Tuesdays Stand-Up Comedy, Every Fridays Live Acoustic Bands at Cuba Libre Bar Starmall Edsa, Mondays to Thursdays Live Bands, Every Fridays Stand-Up Comedy at Mark's KTV Metropolis. Barbie Almabis (Mar. 17) Body Heat Bikini Summit (Mar. 25) River Maya (Mar. 26) Metropolis Alabang; Barbie Almabis (Mar. 25) Starmall Edsa.

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 V FOR VENDETTA
MTRCB R-13
1.00, 4.00, 7:00, 10:00 LMF
2 SHAGGY DOG
MTRCB GP
12 20, 2.45, 5.10, 7 35, 10 00 LMF
3 HOSTEL
MTRCB R-18
12 40, 3 00, 5:20, 740, 1000
4 SHE'S THE MAN
MTRCB PG-13
11.35, 2.00, 4.25, 6.50, 9:15
PREMIERE THEATRE 16 BLOCKS / CRASH
MTRCB PG-13 4 10, 9 00 / MTRCB R-13 1 50, 6 30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Enjoy first class entertainment at amazing prices!
Starting March 20, MONDAY & TUESDAY
special prices at P99 for cinemas 1-4 and
P120 for the premiere theater (without food and drinks)
See posters and flyers for details.
Call 633-7851 loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls lovemall

AT THE CINEMAS THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 3333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice For verification please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 HOUSE OF FURY	2 V FOR VENDETTA	3 HOSTEL	4 SHE'S THE MAN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SHAGGY DOG	2 HOSTEL	3 THX V FOR VENDETTA 2 00, 4 50, 7 40, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 YOURS, MINE & OURS	5 16 BLOCKS	6 SHE'S THE MAN	7 DATE MOVIE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 16 BLOCKS	2 V FOR VENDETTA		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SHE'S THE MAN 2 15, 4 30, 6 45, 9 00, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX V FOR VENDETTA 2 40, 5 30, 8 20, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 16 BLOCKS 2:15, 4 30, 6 45, 9 00, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DATE MOVIE 2 00, 3 4, 5 30, 7 15, 9 00, 10 45 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HOSTEL 2:35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 00, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX V FOR VENDETTA	2 SHE'S THE MAN		
	3 SHAGGY DOG	4 YOURS, MINE & OURS	5 HOSTEL	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 HOSTEL	3 PRIDE & PREJUDICE	4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 HOSTEL		
	3 HOUSE OF FURY	4 SHE'S THE MAN	5 SHAGGY DOG	

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BPI Installment Madness March 15-31, 2006	Anson's Emporium Exhibit March 12 to 31, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Belle Dancing Showdown March 18, 2006	Makati Auto Car Show March 17 to 18, 2006

GREENBELT
Double Midnight Madness Sale
February 17 to 19, 2006

Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents 7 NG UMAGA
at REP's Globe Theater - March 24, 25, 26, 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Come & view the 20th ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBIT
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29.
Or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

The much-awaited film version of the award-winning broadway musical
RENT
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
OPENS MARCH 29 EXCLUSIVELY AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

Ayala Malls
AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
Trippin' in 80 days
Get ready and pack your things for the coolest destinations this summer!
Buy 2 movie tickets at Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 1, and Greenbelt 3 Cinemas to get 1 raffle coupon, fill up, and drop at drop boxes at the ticket booths.
Deadline of all raffle entries is on May 19, 2006.
Drawing of winner is on May 20, 2006.
Winners will be notified by registered mail and phone call.
Special thanks to:
Club Noah The Travel Club
Per DTI NCR Permit No AI-200 Series of 2006

lovemall!
BPI EXPRESS CREDIT
2 mad about 'emall!
Just Got Bigger and Better!
REAL 0%
S.I.P.
PATROL
Shop in Ayala Malls using your BPI Express Credit Card for a chance to win a Nissan Patrol 4x4 in the Grand Draw and fabulous prizes in the Monthly Draws.
From November 25, 2005 to March 31, 2006
For inquiries, Call BPI Express Phone 89-100 Or Log On To www.bpiexpressonline.com

'KING NARESUAN'

Thai historical epic generates excitement

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR MOVIE INDUSTRY HAS had its share of major productions in the past decade, big-budget epics that have made viewers sit up and marvel at the power and range of Filipino filmmaking.

Talk of the town

But, all of them pale in comparison in terms of investment and scope to the current talk of the town in Thailand's movie industry—the historical epic, "King Naresuan," directed by Prince Chatrichalerm Yukol.

For two long years, the film has been in production on a huge plot of land in the Surasheeha Military Base in Thailand's Kanchanburi province, three hours away from Bangkok.

The 2,000-*rai* location is dotted with huge, sprawling period sets vivifying castles, battlements, temples, villages—not just of Thai architecture alone, but also structures of Burmese provenance, King Naresuan having spent most of his life in Myanmar.

We were privileged to spend a day at the film's location, and marveled at all of the structures and thousands of performers and production people who have been working on the epic film for so long.

The film was originally budgeted at the impressive sum of 300 bahts, but that figure has already been overtaken by unexpected events and rising costs, so the investment in the production now stands at 500 million bahts—and counting.

Why has so much money, time and effort been expended on the film? Because its hero and his exploits in combat are deemed to be of great historical importance and inspirational value.

King Naresuan has earned the Thai people's abiding gratitude for declaring independence from the great enemy that had taken control of the country in the 15th century.

Childhood

Like Attila, Naresuan spent his childhood as a royal hostage at the court of his father's enemy in Pegu, then the Burmese empire's seat of power.

The film illustrates how Naresuan learned fighting techniques and war strategies from a leading military guru, until he overshadowed the eldest son of the crown prince of Burma in combat skills.

After realizing that his life was in danger, Naresuan fled back to his homeland, waged battle after battle, achieved victory, and declared independence.

At the production's sprawling film set, we met the actor who plays Naresuan, and were surprised when we were told that he wasn't an experienced actor, but was in fact an army captain named Wanchana Sawasdee.

The movie's director explained that he had tested hundreds of actors for the plum role, but had opted to cast an "amateur" because, as a real soldier, Sawasdee was eminently credible and empathetically dynamic in the movie's many spectacular battle scenes.

SAWASDEE. The "amateur" lead actor is an army captain.

Excitement

The trailer of "Naresuan" was premiered at the Bangkok filmfest to great acclaim, and excitement is high over the film's national and international run in the coming months.

Aside from being used for the production of "King Naresuan," the film's huge sets have been made so sturdily that they can be utilized by other period productions. So, the location will become a "film industry city" that also has major potential as a tourism site. —A win-win situation all around!

Rehabilitation

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

REHABILITATION IS not just meant for criminals and drug addicts. Physical therapy is needed to rehabilitate abused, wrongly-used or neglected bodies. Indeed, our bodies need rejuvenation.

Let's banish from our minds the idea that the only people who need physical rehabilitation are those who suffer from stroke, accidents, injuries, etc. Regardless of age, extent of disability or injury, a session with a rehab specialist—like St. Louis University Hospital's Dr. Romeo Abiog—can be helpful and enlightening. Dr. Abiog patiently explains his patients' problems and their respective solutions.

Cases

Here are some of the noted physician's cases:

1. A teenage girl who was into martial arts sought medical assistance after hearing a distinct clicking in her knees during certain movements. Diagnostic exams later revealed an in-born defect in the knee bones.

The girl wasn't ordered to give up martial arts. With proper medication and sound advice, she has resumed working out—with a better understanding of what to do and what not to do.

2. A woman with scoliosis was given a program of exercises to counter the progression of spinal curvature.

Relief

3. A wife was tested for sensory deficiencies after complaining of intense neck pain and severe migraine. Pain medication, hot compress, ultrasound, neck traction and exercises led to pain alleviation and relief.

In contrast, we have a friend who refuses to see a doctor and self-medicates to relieve shoulder and neck pain. She is now dependent on pain killers.

So, seek proper consultation and rehabilitation for your body—it deserves no less.

'PBB's' human dynamics may not be as real as they seem

From page A2-1

intention.

Since they had to appeal enough to viewers to be assured of their "votes," which would enable them to survive to the end of the competition, some of the housemates felt they needed to "project" themselves as more interesting or appealing than they really were.

First edition

They did this on an individual basis, but the collective effect was to make the first edition of "PBB" not quite the ultra-real experience it was meant to be, both for the housemates and their viewers.

Today, however, some of the original batchmates have a problem: They're trying to make it in show biz as actors, but to be good, actors have to be extremely honest when they're emoting.

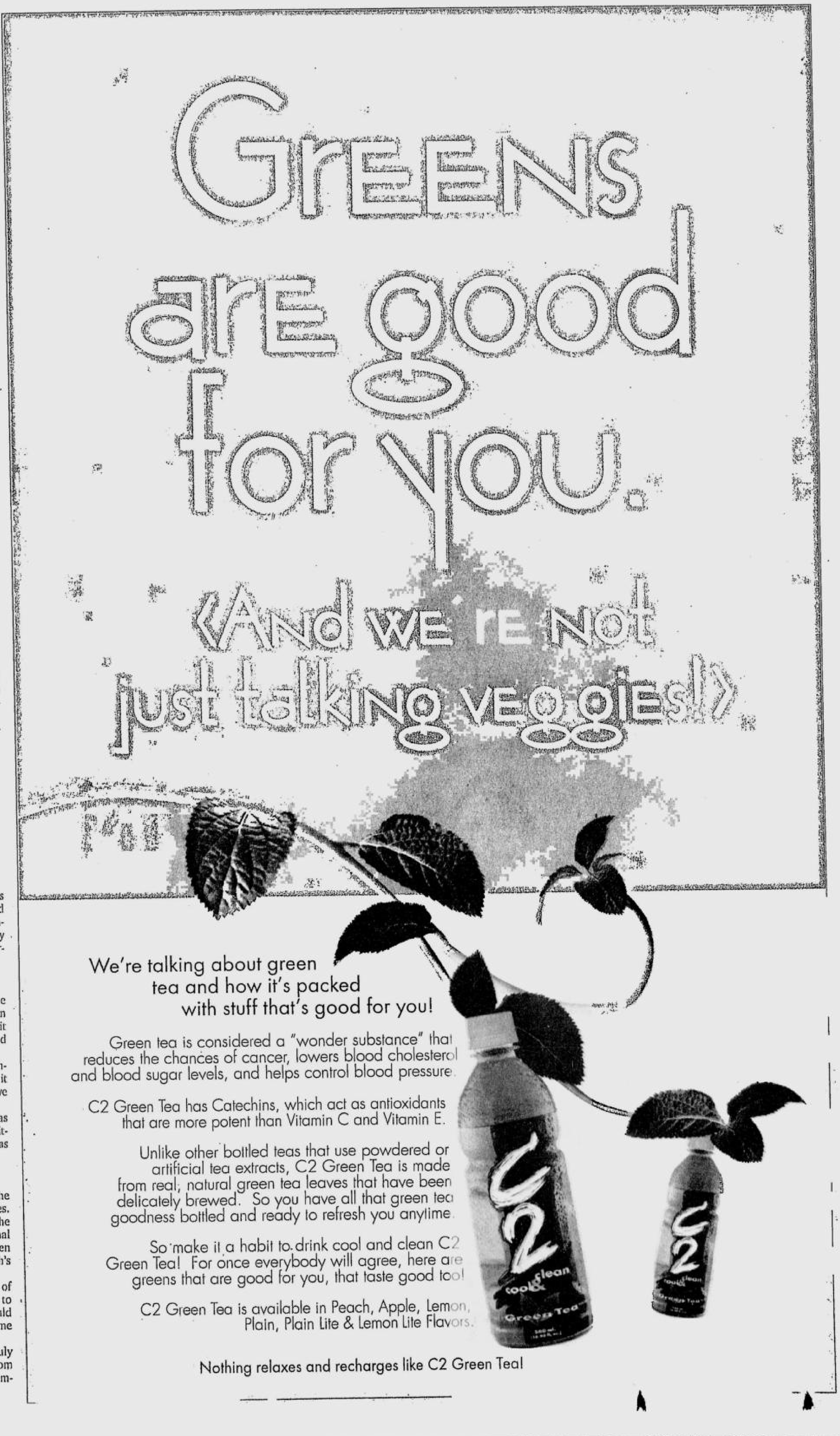
Unfortunately, the "PBB" experience has gotten some of the original housemates habituated to faking it, so they're coming across as unempathetic actors.

Current batch

The problem could be even worse for the current batch of celebrity "PBB" housemates. They are people who are used to being in the public eye, and some of them are professional actors. So, their stint on "PBB" could be even more of a performance than the first batch's outing.

They may want to be themselves, but all of their years as celebrities, plus the need to keep viewers interested in them, could prompt them to fake it at least part of the time that they're on the show.

So, viewers may not be getting the truly "revelatory" epiphanies that they expect from the second edition's "celebrities being themselves" format.



We're talking about green tea and how it's packed with stuff that's good for you!

Green tea is considered a "wonder substance" that reduces the chances of cancer, lowers blood cholesterol and blood sugar levels, and helps control blood pressure.

C2 Green Tea has Catechins, which act as antioxidants that are more potent than Vitamin C and Vitamin E.

Unlike other bottled teas that use powdered or artificial tea extracts, C2 Green Tea is made from real, natural green tea leaves that have been delicately brewed. So you have all that green tea goodness bottled and ready to refresh you anytime.

So make it a habit to drink cool and clean C2 Green Tea! For once everybody will agree, here are greens that are good for you, that taste good too!

C2 Green Tea is available in Peach, Apple, Lemon, Plain, Plain Lite & Lemon Lite Flavors.

Nothing relaxes and recharges like C2 Green Tea!

A FIESTA OF SAVINGS FOR SM MALLERS

Great finds at great savings are in store for savvy shoppers at **SM City Fairview** and **SM City Dasmariñas** during their simultaneous **3-DAY SALE** on the weekend of **March 17, 18 and 19.**

SM City Fairview

SM City Dasmariñas

A wide selection of great buys are offered at up to 50% discount.

➡ Mallwide Choices

Among the sale items showcased by mall stores are: summer gear, sporting goods, organic products, travel and safety basics for kids and babies, beach and leisure wear, and I.T. gadgets.

3 day sale

mar 17• 18 •19

up to

50% OFF

great selections mallwide

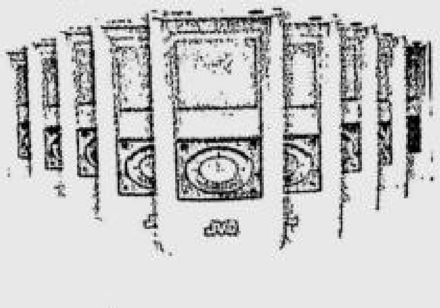
get a chance to

WIN

JVC

The Perfect Experience

XA-HD500 Digital Audio Player
with every P500 purchase at
any participating mall establishments



mall hours:
10am-10pm

SM City FAIRVIEW

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0210, Series of 2006

SM City DASMARIÑAS

Per DTI-Cavite Permit No. 078, Series of 2006

WIN NEW AUDIO!

A total of 25 units of JVC XA-HD500 Digital Audio Players are at stake in the raffle events.

Every P500 purchase at any mall establishment gives shoppers the chance to win.

At SM City Fairview, 15 units will be drawn at 10pm on March 19, 2006. At SM City Dasmariñas, 10 units will be drawn at 10pm, also on March 19.

SM Foodcourt - Customer gets one raffle coupon for every P150 single or accumulated purchase.

SM Cinema - Customer gets one raffle coupon for every single purchase of four cinema tickets.

Amusement Centers - Customer gets one raffle coupon for every P100 single purchase of tokens.

In whichever mall you shop, you can win a new JVC audio appliance.

What's new in Fairview

SM CITY FAIRVIEW'S new wing makes it the first-choice destination of shoppers from the fast-growing communities of Fairview and neighboring areas. Coffee shops, restaurants and the biggest ACE hardware center are just some of the mall's attractions.

Bring the kids to Storyland for a real fun time!

Play at the SM Bowling Center! Always a great indoor sport!

Supermalling for the whole family

It's a great one-stop shopping event at **SM CITY DASMARIÑAS** on March 17, 18 and 19.

Exciting half-price breaks await shoppers at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Ace Hardware, Our Home, Surplus Shop, SM Appliance Center, Sports Central, Watsons, and fashion boutique shops.

all the fun all the time

SM CINEMA Now's your chance to enjoy SM Cinema's "One, Two, Three, FREE" promo on the latest movies! Come in groups of 4 and get your cinema tickets for the price of 3. Offer good only during the 3-Day Sale period.

Pause from all that bargain-hunting at SM Food Court. Its tempting selection of specialty food counters make it the ideal place to chill out during the Sale.

Action, adventure pack latest film slate

By Nestor U. Torre

FILM BUFFS WHO ENJOYED "ICE AGE" should be interested to know that its sequel, "The Meltdown," is due to open in town this month.

This time around, the wacky trio of Manny the woolly mammoth, Sid the sloth and Diego the saber-toothed tiger are enjoying the perks of their now melting world.

Manny thinks he's the last mammoth alive—until he finds Elie. He wants to start a family, but *that* can't happen because they can't stand each other—and Elie thinks she's a possum!

Third installment

For its part, "X-Men 3: The Last Stand," has a May 24 playdate. In the fantasy-film franchise's third installment, a scientist discovers a treatment for mutantism, thus altering the X-Men's perception of their unique existence.

"X-Men 3's" new mutant characters include Kelsey Grammer as Beast, Ellen Page as Kitty Pride, Dania Ramirez as Callisto, and Daniel Cudmore as Colossus.

"Hostel," a horror-thriller produced by Quentin Tarantino, is about three American backpackers who are lured into an Eastern European hotel that doubles up as a torture chamber! Jay Hernandez stars and Eli Roth directs.

Multi-talented Nick Cannon shoots for stardom with "Underclassman," an action-packed comedy about a cop who goes undercover in an elite high school to infiltrate a group of ultra-rich students under suspicion for murder.

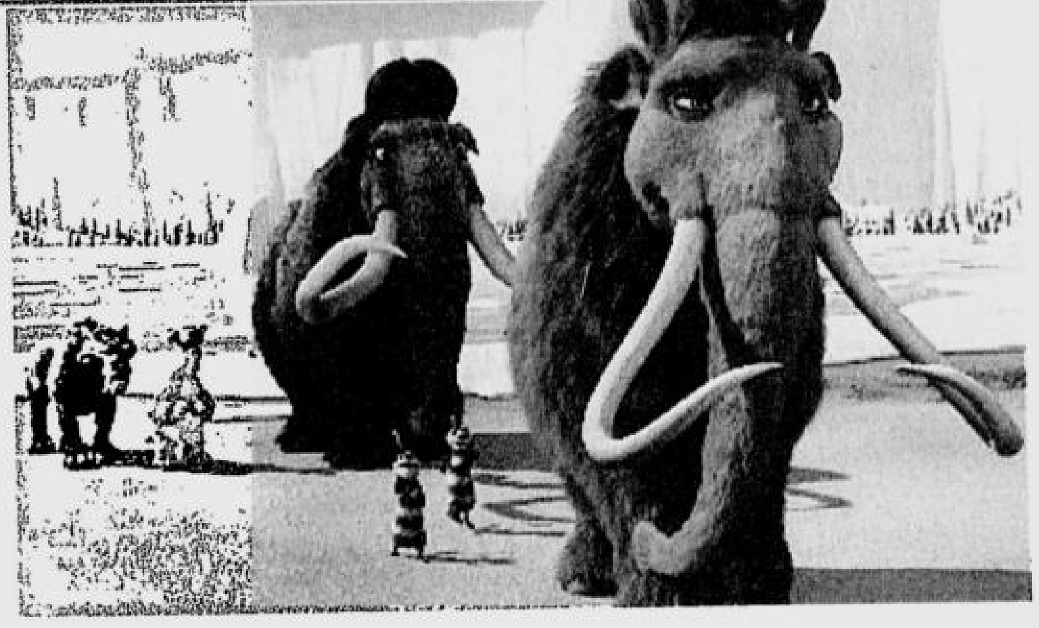
Cannon is the right new talent for the lead role because he's a successful actor-rapper-comic who's already made his mark on TV and in recordings.

Avenger

Milla Jovovich also scores in "Ultraviolet," as the sci-fi action film's beautiful and lethal avenger. The film is set in the late 21st century: A subculture of human has emerged with a genetic mutation that causes enhanced speed, incredible stamina and acute intelligence.

As their numbers grow, they are treated as outcasts, and the government sets out to destroy them—but, Jovovich's character is determined that *that* doesn't happen. She becomes a rogue warrior bent on protecting her new race—and wreaking vengeance on those who created it.

And, in "Date Movie," funny girl Alyson Hannigan plays a fat woman who finally blooms into a sweet, svelte charmer. Billed as "the mother of all spoofs," the production is replete with outrageous trailers and TV spots, and is the perfect starmaking vehicle for Hannigan, who first attracted attention in "American Pie."



"ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN." Wacky characters enjoy perks of their now melting world.

'You Stand Watching' is forgettable, harmless pap

By Noelani Torre

IF YOU KNOW WHO RYAN CABRERA IS then there's no doubt you know him more for his hyped-up relationship with the younger Miss Simpson than for his music. *That*, or his cross-between-an-overgrown-shrub-and-a-porcupine hairdo.

Sure, tracks from the singer-songwriter's 2004 debut, "Take It All Away," made it to Billboard's Top 10, but being noticed isn't the same as being remembered. Cabrera doesn't leave much of an impression because he sounds too much like everybody else. This is apparent in the first album, but even more so in his most recent release, "You Stand Watching."

Pop scene

The hints of grittiness in "Take It All Away" have been ironed out, leaving you with a pleasant-sounding record that doesn't sound all that different from the rest of the production-perfect CDs littering the pop scene.

Maybe this is because the Goo Goo Dolls' John Rzeznik is no longer the producer of his sophomore outing. This time, Cabrera himself takes on *that* role, and the result is harmless pap that won't offend parents.

Cabrera, 23, appears to have regressed 10 years in his lyric-writing. The meant-to-be poignant, romantic lines sound as though they've been written by a 13-year-old:

"I'll be your shelter when the weather is rough" ("From the Start"), and "With you gone it plays on/ It's so hard to move on" ("With You Gone"). These lines just don't cut it.

rya
you stan

CABRERA. Being noticed isn't the same as being remembered.

A catchy tune will make the most pedestrian line sound like pure poetry, but unfortunately, he doesn't have a single memorable hook in this 11-song, 37-minute-long record.

The first album had at least two redeeming songs—"True" and "On the Way Down." "You Stand Watching" has 11 nice-sounding tunes that you forget 10 seconds after they've stopped playing.

Genuine musician

This goes to show that sometimes, trying to establish yourself as a genuine musician by writing your own songs just isn't the way to get a rep.

Cabrera may be more talented than Ashlee Simpson, but she *knows* how to put on a show—and he doesn't.

They didn't sing their songs

By Behn Cervantes

THE WORLD KNOWS THAT Audrey Hepburn didn't sing "I Could Have Danced All Night" when she portrayed Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady"—Marni Nixon did.

Neither did Natalie Wood sing "I Feel Pretty" in "West Side Story." Much to Ava Gardner's regret, her singing voice was dubbed in "Show Boat," although it was used in the film's soundtrack.

Dubbing for actors who couldn't sing was common Hollywood practice. But, what happens when this is done to singers—and why?

Opera

There was a lot of hoopla when director Otto Preminger decided to do "Carmen Jones," an all-Black version of the opera, "Carmen."

Preminger found his leading lady in Dorothy Dandridge, one of the first black performers to reach star status. Dandridge, being a singer, was deemed the perfect choice, but her voice was likewise dubbed because of the "operatic" demands of the arias.

The vocal range of co-star Harry Belafonte, who played Joe, was also deemed too limited for the role's requirements. So, his songs were likewise dubbed by another singer.

Dorothy was nominated for best actress at the Oscars that year—some 40 years before Halle Berry copped the first best actress award ever won by a black actress.

DANDRIDGE. Won acclaim for "Carmen Jones."

Because of the success of "Carmen Jones," Dandridge was hired to play Bess in George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," starring Sidney Poitier, the first black actor to win a best actor award at the Oscars. Poitier's singing voice was also dubbed by another performer.

Eleanor Parker received her third Oscar nomination for portraying opera diva, Marjorie Lawrence, in "Interrupted Melody." But, the singing voice of another performer was used instead—Marjorie's.

Tunay na per second ang charge!
Blockbuster sa tipid!

ANO'NG ENDING?	ANO'NG ENDING?
MAGANDA BA?	MAGANDA BA?
'WAG MONG I-KWENTO!	'WAG MONG I-KWENTO!
MANONOOD PA AKO EH!	MANONOOD PA AKO EH!
PERO...	PERO...
MAGANDA YUNG ENDING?	MAGANDA YUNG ENDING?
NOON	NGAYON
(7 SEC.)	(7 SEC.)
₱6.50	₱0.70

₱0.10 PER SECOND
Diyes sentimos kada-segundo
(Globe-to-Globe)

JUST DIAL:
232 + 10-DIGIT GLOBE NO.
EX: 232917XXXXXXX

Super savings sa eksaktong per second charging! Hindi na by the minute!
Promo is open for Postpaid and Prepaid subscribers.

sa Globe posible

Promo extended 'til April 15, 2006 as approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1743. Series of 2006.

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
IN THE ACTION TRADITION OF 'HEAT'!
WHILE THE HEADLINES ARE BEING BROADCAST, THE WORST SCENARIO IS HAPPENING.
JOHNNIE TO
BREAKING NEWS
Starring RICHIE JEN
KELLY CHEN NICK CHEUNG
CHEUNG SUI FAI
Directed by JOHNNIE TO
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
NOW SHOWING

SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE

School circuit for alternative films needed

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR YEARS NOW, WE'VE BEEN trying to do our share to help revive and revitalize the languishing movie scene. Our involvement in the Cinemalaya festival and the digital film movement has gratified us, but problems remain.

Yes, good movies are being produced by digital filmmakers, but their distribution and screening remain problematic. Some digital movies (like "Ang Pagdadlaga ni Maximo Oliveros" and "Big time") have been shown in mainstream theaters, but with decidedly mixed results. Not only is the conversion from digital to 35mm expensive, but audiences are also sparse.

Projector

Sometime back, we suggested to the digital filmmakers we've been mentoring to band together, purchase their own digital film projector, and create a new, alternative, school-based circuit for digital movies.

We pointed out to them that schools are the best venues for digital productions, because most such movies are made by young writers and directors. Also, digital films are edgy, "now," confront today's issues, and are thus of particular interest to the engaged youth.

Digital movies should find a welcoming home on campuses *and* also help in the educational process, because films that tackle significant and relevant issues would generate illuminating discussions right after they're screened.

The big question now is, would school administrators and teachers support such a traveling circuit, and motivate their students to attend its screenings?

Major boost

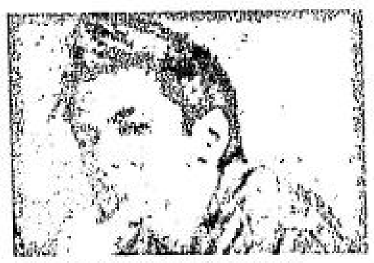
We urge school officials to do this, because there are rich educational dividends to be reaped, and it would be a major boost to the worthy goal of nationwide film education.

Also, both teachers and students would learn a lot from the new filmmakers themselves, who should make themselves available for discussions following each screening.

It you're an educator and agree that this is an important new movement to support, do get in touch with us, and we can connect you with the digital filmmakers we've been talking to.

Granted, creating an alternative screening circuit *is* a major endeavor, but if enough interested and supportive people decide to help make it happen, it will!

It's a key effort, because it could help keep the digital film movement going, and solve the daunting venue problem that's been frustrating many new filmmakers.



NATHAN Lopez topbilled coming-of-age indie, "Maximo Oliveros."

The support of schools has boosted theater in these parts, as students buy hundreds and even thousands of tickets to watch semi-pro plays and musicals.

The same support should be extended to digital movies as well, because they are truly the wave of the future.

Transformative power of love celebrated

From page A3-3

in the times' social circus, and even appears to be bent on making a career out of rejecting marriage proposals—including one from the heretofore prideful and prejudiced but now besotted Darcy!

Later, however, Darcy (Matthew MacFadyen) is humbled and brought down to his knees by his unrequited love for Lizzie, and helps her family out of a tight squeeze. So, she is startled to discover that she has fallen madly in love with him—and, even better, on her own terms.

Eventful

This battle of wills and hearts is delightful to see unfold, and it's quite eventful, despite the production's two-hour length.

Time passes fast when you are both entertained and made to think about the unnecessary rules that make life and love miserable for so many people.

Oscar nominee Keira Knightley paces the movie with her incandescent and insightful performance. But, the stellar ensemble contributes a gorgeous gallery of other noteworthy characterizations that prevents the production from deteriorating into a solitary star turn. MacFadyen, Blethyn and Sutherland keep Knightley spirited company, indeed.

But, even this exceptional ensemble doesn't run away with the film. It must share the plaudits with its other production aspects, including script, direction, cinematography, design and scoring.

Unlike other period movies that assume a series of pallid, passive poses, this movie energizes its material with complex blocking, camerawork and editing, to make viewers feel that life is excitingly, throbbingly happening all around them.

Instructive

Thus are viewers drawn into the heart of the film's romantic action and social drama, and they empathize with the movie's principal characters all the way to the production's thematically instructive ending.

Pride and prejudice are powerful racial totems, but love—the great teacher and equalizer—makes blubbering love-struck schoolboys of them both!

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
5th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA R13
2 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG GP
3 (DOLBY) HOSTEL R18
4 (DOLBY) SHE'S THE MAN
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS / CRASH PG13/R13

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 YOURS MINE & OURS
4 HOSTEL

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 HOSTEL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5 HOUSE OF FURY

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 THE DARK
2 FEARLESS
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 HOSTEL

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3026
1 FEARLESS
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 BLOODRAYNE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 FEARLESS
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) YOURS MINE & OURS
2 (SDDS) FINAL DESTINATION
3 (DTS) DATE MOVIE
4 GOLD (DTS) HOSTEL
5 GOLD (DOLBY) SHE'S THE MAN
6 GOLD (SDDS) SHAGGY DOG
7 GOLD (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA
8 FEARLESS
9 HOUSE OF FURY
10 16 BLOCKS

Blue Wave MALL UNITON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG
2 (DOLBY) HOSTEL
3 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOUSE OF FURY
3 SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN
4 FEARLESS
5 HOSTEL

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 FEARLESS
2 SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN
3 TIGER BLADE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HOSTEL
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOSTEL

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOSTEL
3 (DTS ES) AEON FLUX
4 BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 FEARLESS
3 (DOLBY) SYRIANA
4 (DTS) CLOSE TO YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SAW-2
2 FUN W/ DICK & JANE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG
2 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA
3 (DOLBY) SHE'S THE MAN
4 (DOLBY) HOSTEL

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THE NEW WORLD
2 (DTS) AEON FLUX
3 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA
4 HOSTEL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 HOSTEL
2 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX
3 (DTS) V FOR VENDETTA
4 TIGER BLADE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FEARLESS
2 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
3 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 CRY WOLF
2 YOURS MINE & OURS
3 (DOLBY) FEARLESS
4 (DTS) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HOSTEL
2 16 BLOCKS
3 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE / SYRIANA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 FEARLESS
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 FEARLESS
2 DISKARTE

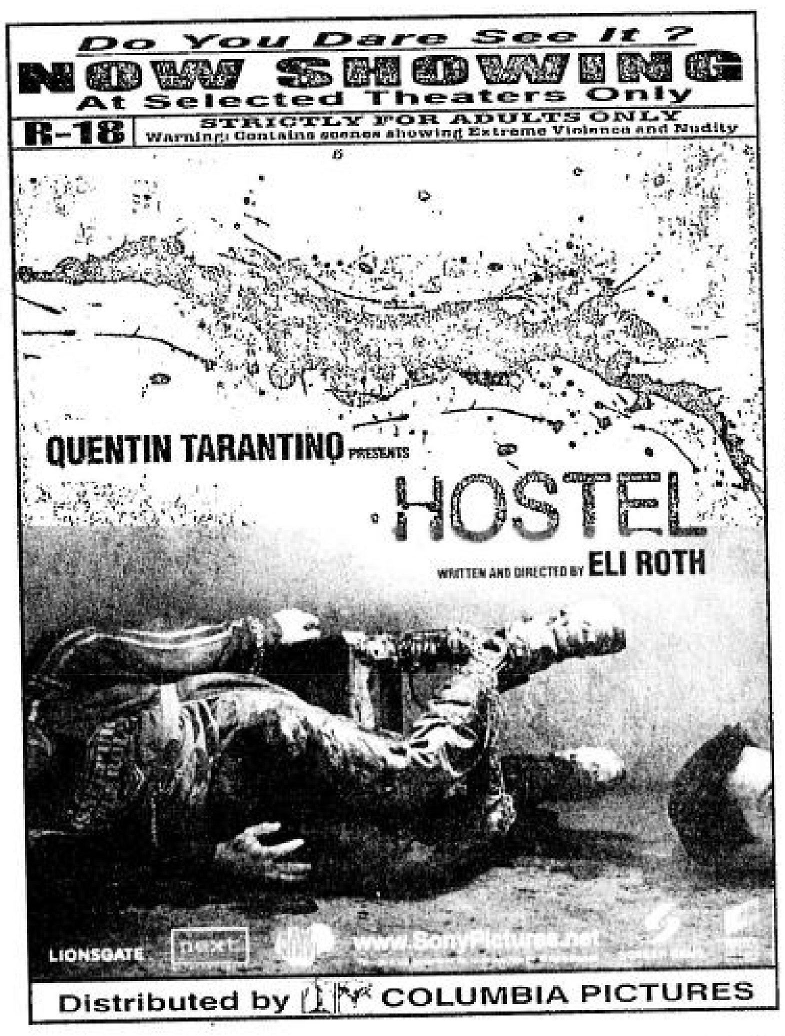
Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) SEX & ZEN
2 SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN
3 DAYO
4 (DTS) VISIBLE SECRET-1

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA
2 SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN
3 (DTS) HOSTEL
4 THE NEW WORLD
5 AEON FLUX

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 AEON FLUX
2 HOSTEL
3 BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN
4 YOURS MINE & OURS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



Do You Dare See It ?
NOW SHOWING
At Selected Theaters Only
R-18 STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY
Warning: Contains scenes showing Extreme Violence and Nudity
QUENTIN TARANTINO PRESENTS
HOSTEL
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ELI ROTH
LIONSGATE
www.SonyPictures.net
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Gateway NCCA Mowelfund Film Institute
PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2006
"AKTRES"
A TRIBUTE TO MOVIE QUEENS

NOW SHOWING
March 18, 2006 Saturday

6:00 p.m
BADLIS SA KINABUHI
starring:
Gloria Sevilla

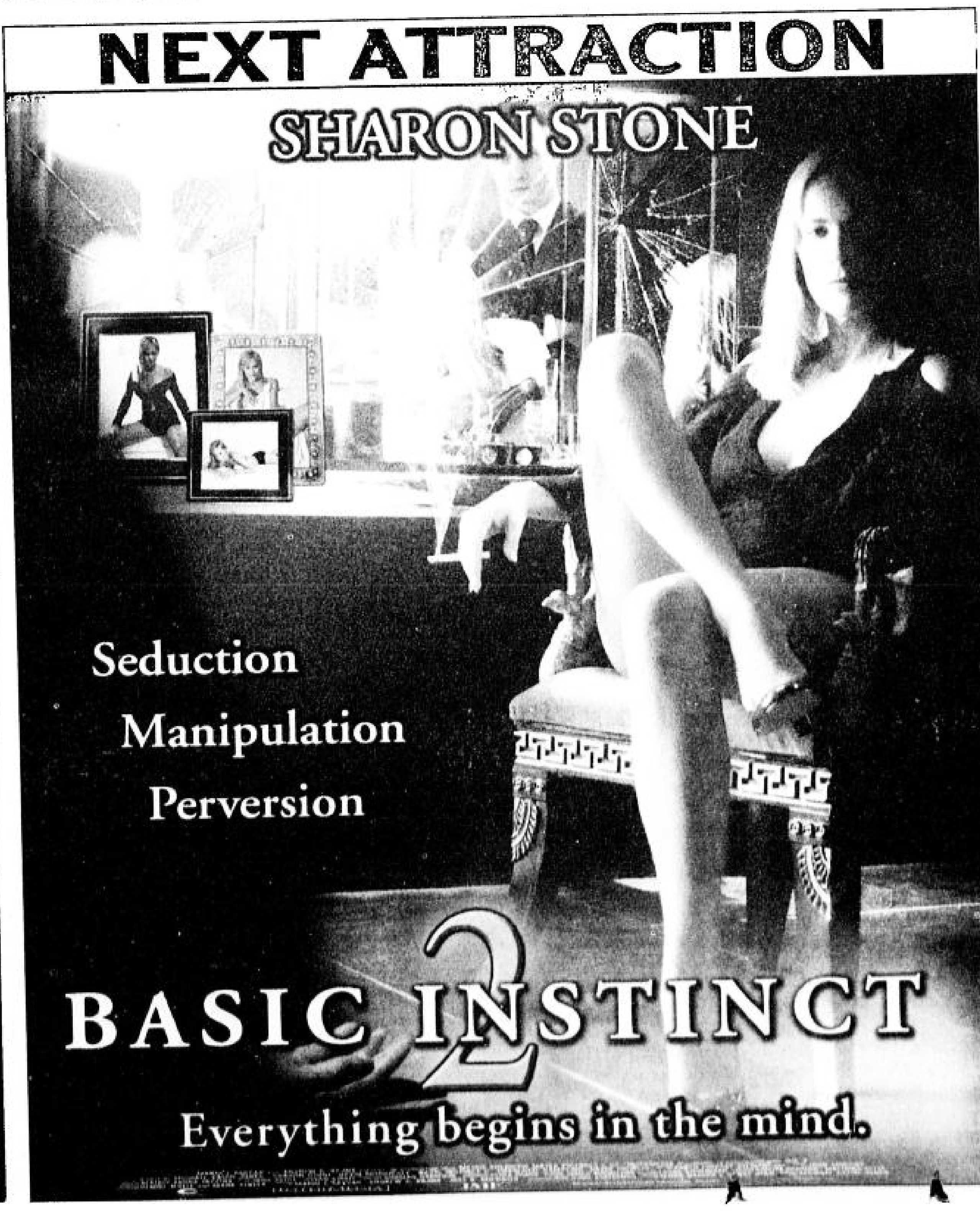
9:00 p.m
ORAPRONOBIS
starring:
Gina Alajar

NEXT ATTRACTION
March 19, 2006 Sunday

6:00 p.m
HINUGOT SA LANGIT
starring
Maricel Soriano

9:00 p.m
IGINUHIT NG TADHANA
starring
Gloria Romero

Cineplex 10, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City
for more information call: 410-4545 or 410-1467
or visit our web @ www.geocities@pelikulaatlipunan2006
Tickets @ P 80 Only!



NEXT ATTRACTION
SHARON STONE
Seduction
Manipulation
Perversion
BASIC INSTINCT 2
Everything begins in the mind.

Transformative power of love celebrated

By Nestor U. Torre

"PRIDE AND PREJUDICE" CELEBRATES the transformative power of love, the great leveler of social classes and espouser of romantic freedom.

The latest film version of Jane Austen's novel is set in the 18th century, when extreme class consciousness sundered many hearts.

Lifetime of penury

The Bennets (Donald Sutherland and Brenda Blethyn) are not quite wellborn, so they fret for their six daughters' future. If they don't marry well, they are doomed to a lifetime of penury and scorn.

Hope springs when the wealthy Mr. Bingley and his even better-situated friend, Mr. Darcy, grace the Bennets' town with an extended visit.

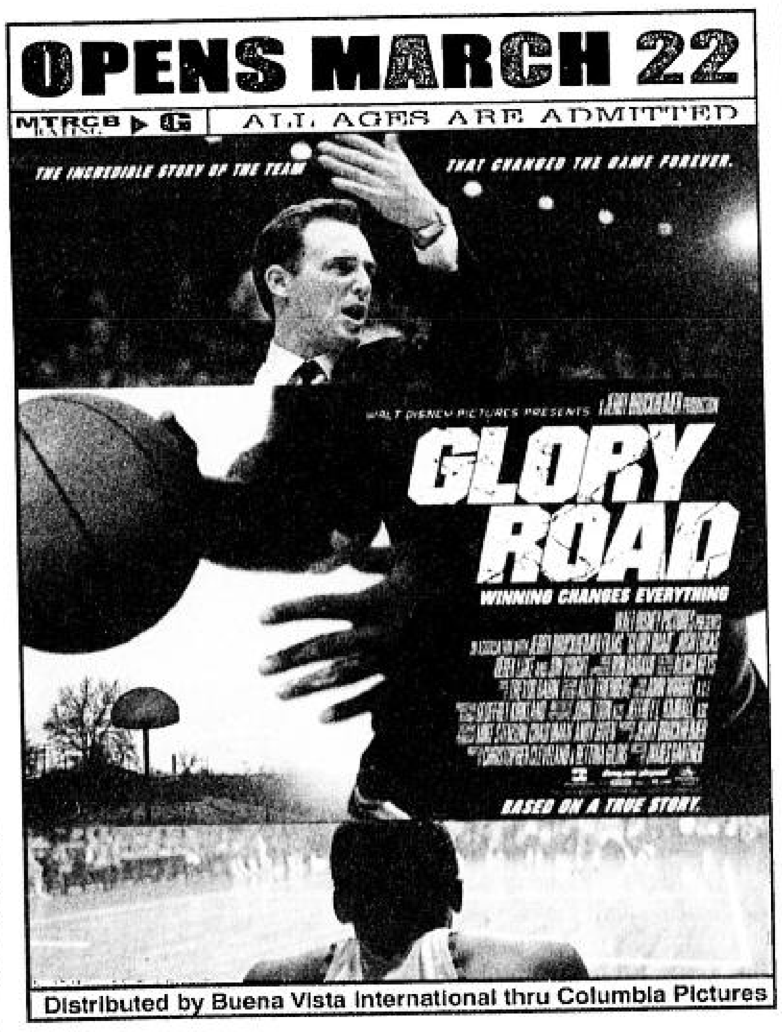
Bingley is attracted to the eldest Bennet girl, Jane—but, his family disapproves of his marrying someone "not suitable," so the poor girl is left spinning in the wind.

The headstrong Lizzie Bennet (Keira Knightley) is made of stronger and sterner stuff, however. She refuses to get caught up

TRANSFORMATIVE/ A3-2

KNIGHTLEY AND MACFADYEN. Delightful battle of wills and hearts.

NOW SHOWING
SHE HAS THREE WEEKS TO LIVE...
THE REST OF HER LIFE
QUEEN LATIFAH
LAST HOLIDAY
MTRCB RATING ▶G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE

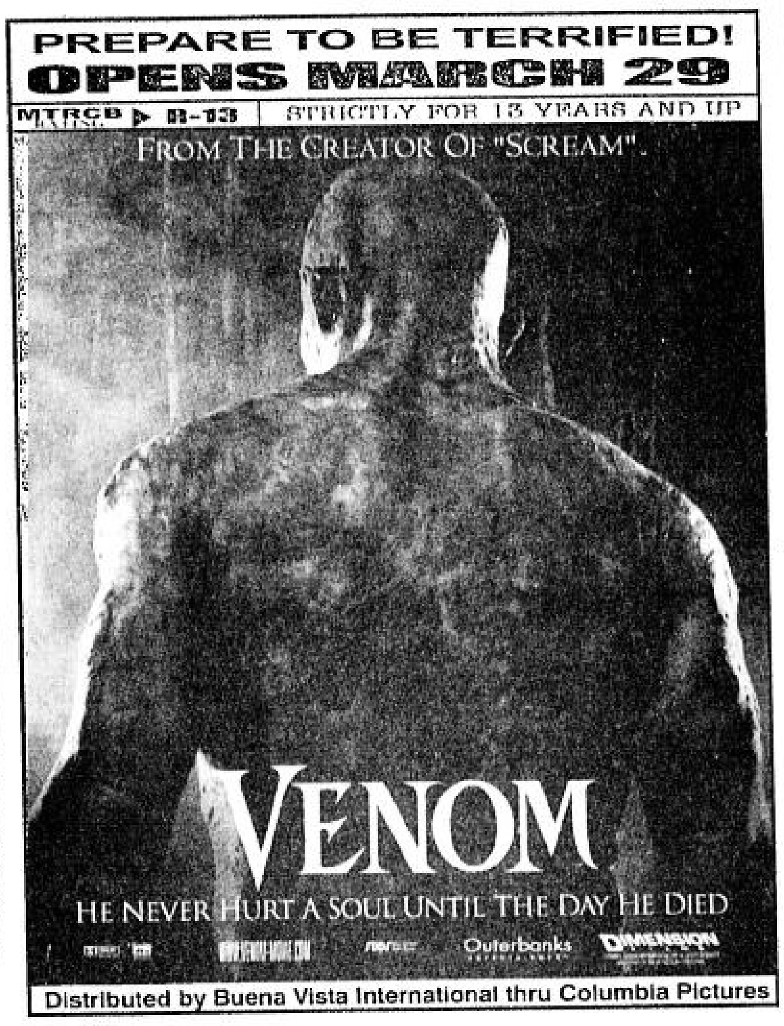

OPENS MARCH 22
MTRCB RATING ▶ G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF THE TEAM THAT CHANGED THE GAME FOREVER.
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
GLORY ROAD
WINNING CHANGES EVERYTHING
BASED ON A TRUE STORY.
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

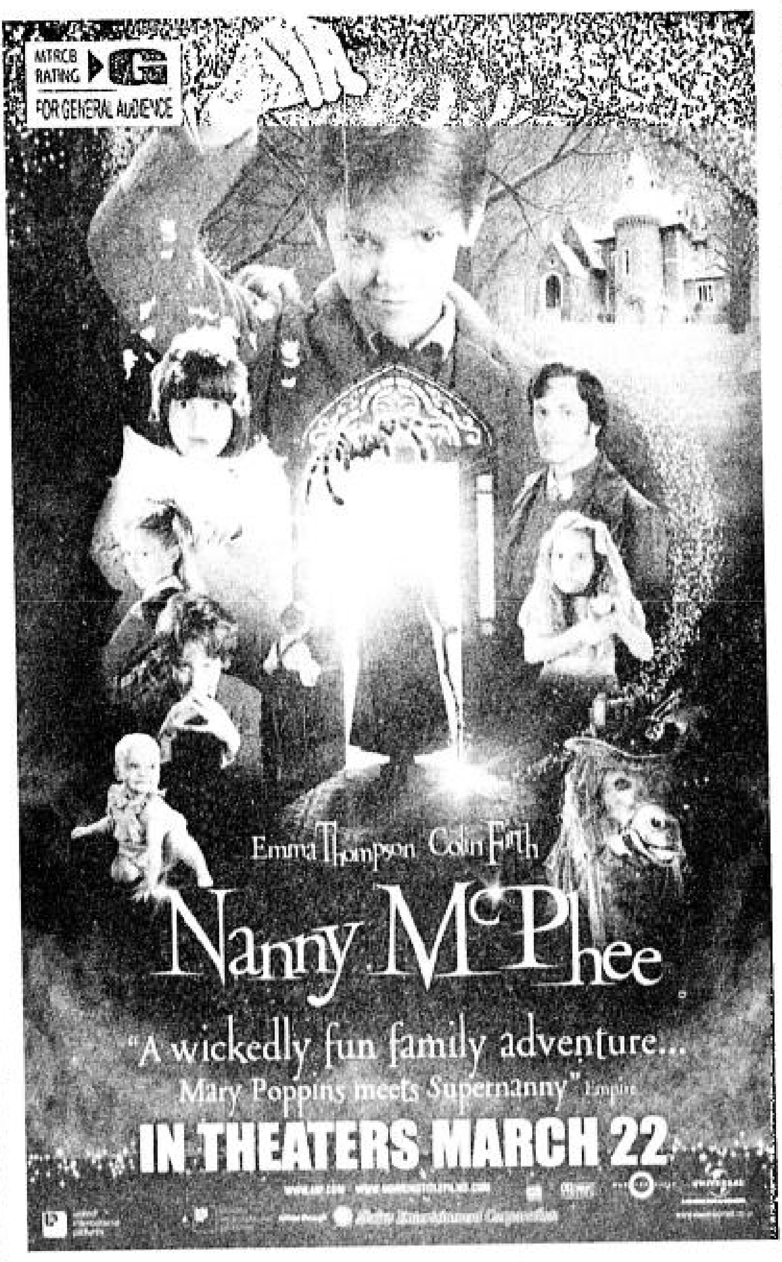
POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CASANOVA R13 12:00,2:25,4:50, 7:15,9:40	SHE'S THE MAN 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	SHAGGY DOG G 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:20
16 BLOCKS PG13 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50	HOSTEL R18 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	V FOR VENDETTA R13 1:50,4:40,7:30,10:20

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-144041

Rockwell
Vintage Bazaar
Summer Chic
March 18-19
Rockwell Tent
POWER PLANT MALL


PREPARE TO BE TERRIFIED!
OPENS MARCH 29
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
FROM THE CREATOR OF "SCREAM".
VENOM
HE NEVER HURT A SOUL UNTIL THE DAY HE DIED
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


MTRCB RATING ▶G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
Emma Thompson Colin Firth
Nanny McPhee
"A wickedly fun family adventure... Mary Poppins meets Supernanny" Empire
IN THEATERS MARCH 22

MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or parent
JACKIE CHAN presents
THE HOTTEST YOUNGBLOODS OF ASIAN ACTION CINEMA
THE FAMILY THAT FIGHTS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER
HOUSE OF FURY
NOW SHOWING

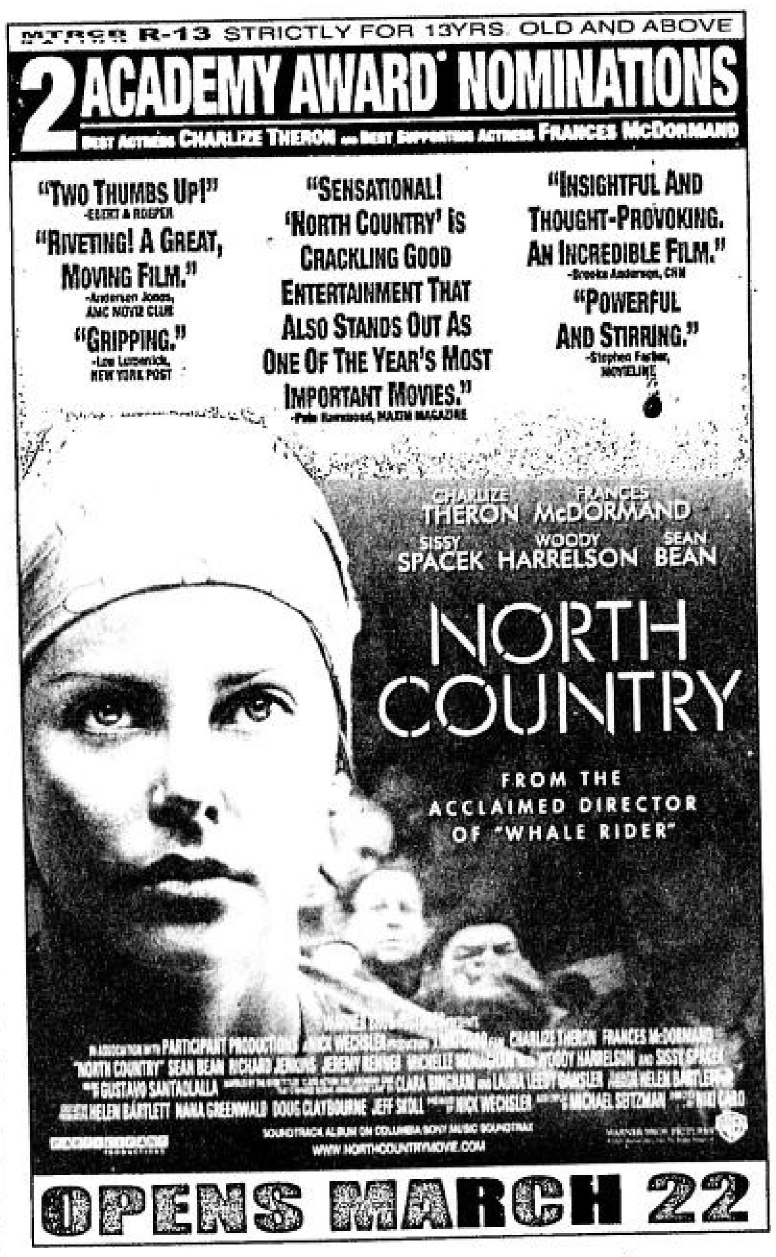
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1	SHAGGY DOG 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30, 11:00	GP
2	V FOR VENDETTA 11:20, 2:20, 6:20, 8:20, 11:00	R-13
3	SHE'S THE MAN 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35	PG-13
4	HOSTEL 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	R-18

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 SHE'S THE MAN 11:35, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 2 HOSTEL 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10 R18
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 V FOR VENDETTA 11:15, 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 R13
CINEMA 4 SHAGGY DOG 10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20 GP
CINEMA 5 V FOR VENDETTA 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 R13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM	MARCH 18, 2006	VINA M., RACHEL A., GENEVA C.	9:00PM
	MARCH 30, 2006	RICO J. PUNO	9:00PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	EVERY MONDAY MARCH 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31	TEATRINO DANCE NIGHT WERE STILL HOT THE MUSICAL FOR INQUIRIES CALL 722-4532 LOC. 118	7:00PM 9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635


MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13YRS. OLD AND ABOVE
2 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
BEST ACTRESS CHARLIZE THERON AND BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS FRANCES McDORMAND
"TWO THUMBS UP!" -EBERT & ROEPER
"RIVETING! A GREAT, MOVING FILM." -Anderson Jones, AMC MOVIE CLUB
"GRIPPING." -Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST
"SENSATIONAL! 'NORTH COUNTRY' IS CRACKLING GOOD ENTERTAINMENT THAT ALSO STANDS OUT AS ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST IMPORTANT MOVIES." -Pete Hammond, MAXIM MAGAZINE
"INSIGHTFUL AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING. AN INCREDIBLE FILM." -Brooke Anderson, CNN
"POWERFUL AND STIRRING." -Stephen Farber, MOVIELINE
CHARLIZE THERON FRANCES McDORMAND
SISSY SPACEK WOODY HARRELSON SEAN BEAN
NORTH COUNTRY
FROM THE ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR OF "WHALE RIDER"
SOUNDTRACK ALBUM ON COLUMBIA/SONY MUSIC SOUNDTRAX
WWW.NORTHCOUNTRYMOVIE.COM
OPENS MARCH 22

MUTANT ACTION BEGINS MARCH 22
MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13 Parents cautioned against bringing kids age 9 & below. Some intense scenes may stress their sensibilities
THE BLOOD WAR IS ON
ULTRAVIOLET
www.SonyPictures.net
Distributed by Columbia Pictures

Tours, Leisure & Chow

garanda@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 260

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design
Arias Espinosa, Editor

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Astoria Plaza
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinto St. Roxas Blvd.
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Las Palmas Hotel Manila
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 521-1000/ Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmplazahotel.com

Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Kaputian Island Garden, City of Samal
Tel. (082) 221-9970 to 73
Manila: (02) 750-1896 /Fax (082) 221-9979

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St.,
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

CSB HOTEL
Arellan Ave., cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 /fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (63.2) 729.8888 loc. 8101 Fax: : (63.2)
728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
www.oakwood.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/Fax (082) 225-1888

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

SUMMER PLACE HOTEL
Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Watefront brings you 'free time', anytime

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO (WCCHC), Cebu City's only 561-room convention Hotel, located in Lahug, embarks on a new, one-of-a-kind offering for its guests: Unlimited internet time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For free. No hitch, no catch. Hotel guests now have the opportunity to enjoy free, unlimited, high-speed, wireless access to the world wide web at the Lobby Lounge, in all function rooms, and in the Gourmet Walk, where the Hotel's numerous restaurants are located: Uno, Tin Gow, Madeleine, Mizu, La Gondola and the Treff Bar.

WCCHC offers this first-of-its-kind service in partnership with GlobeQUEST WiZ or Wireless Internet Zone, serving genuine broadband speeds with a bandwith that begins at a whopping 512 kbps. Launched as the 1st WiZ Hotspot Hotel in the country, Waterfront has been offering broadband Internet service since 2004.

Just this March, fueled by the company's incessant goal to continually provide its guests with first-rate, pioneering services, WiFi access at broadband speed is now available at no cost, no time limit, no passwords, codes or LAN cards.

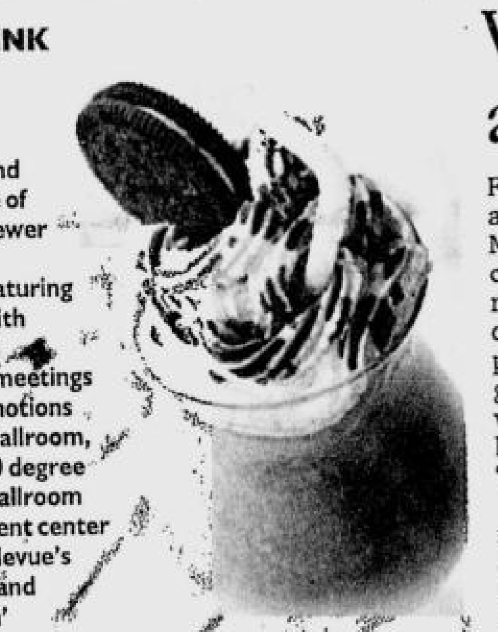
So whether one is in a power lunch with clients, a national convention, or in a coffee get-together with friends, as long as you're in Waterfront (WCCHC), you can easily fire up a laptop or a handheld computer with Wi-Fi, click on the GlobeQUEST WiZ network that instantly appears, and you're online: good to surf with plug and play convenience, to check and send emails, to stay productive even when you're outside the wired office or home.

Make the most of the opportunity to integrate web access into your daily routine with Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino's 'free time' for you.

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino is listed in JiWire's Global Hotspot Directory, the most comprehensive and up-to-date guide to the more than 60,000 free and commercial hotspot locations in nearly 100 countries around the world, as one of 14 Hotspot Hotels in the Philippines. The directory is available online, for PDAs (via AvantGo), and as a software download for the PC or Mac at: www.jiwire.com

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino (WCCHC) is located at 1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City, Philippines. For inquiries and reservations, please contact (032) 232-6888: Conventions: Local 8044; Food and Beverage: 8200; 8201; Front Office: 8133. Manila Sales and reservations Office at (02) 687-0888.

THE BELLEVUE'S DRINK OF THE MONTH



The Bellevue Hotel, Alabang's definitive social and business destination and the premier concert venue of the south, announces its newer and better website, www.thebellevue.com. Featuring a user-friendly interface with substantial information on accommodations, dining, meetings and events, facilities, promotions and The Bellevue Grand Ballroom, the site also features a 360 degree view of the suites, grand ballroom and the 20/20 entertainment center for a better feel of the Bellevue's distinct brand of comfort and luxury. Indulge in Marchin' Chocolate, The Bellevue Hotel's drink of the month. Pugsley sends his cheers to all graduates — a nice graduation gift for you to take home with every purchase of this creamy concoction worth P300++. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Value conference packages at City Garden Hotel

FOR ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS and get-together, City Garden Hotel Makati has two restaurants that you can choose from: Le Jardin Restaurant, with its warm and relaxing dining experience, and its more popular Roofdeck Bar and Grill that gives you a cozy dining experience with a great view of the Makati skyline, is offering its Chef's Special of "Ribs BBQ & Grills".

Its luxurious yet cozy environment immediately transports you away from the hustle and bustle of the city into its uniquely comforting environment, a perfect retreat for a stressed out businessman. Its 160-well appointed Italian inspired rooms make for a comfortable stay, without keeping one totally away from it all. For as low as P1,450 per person based on twin sharing, all the rooms are equipped with the latest room amenities like cable TV with remote control, in-room safe, IDD/NDD telephone, automated wake-up call, well-stocked minibar, facsimile access port, and a fast Internet access. In fact, wherever you are in the hotel, one can easily avail of a fast Internet access.

For the health and beauty buff City Garden Hotel Makati boasts of a well-equipped Health Club, a swimming pool and the Body & Face by Mendez Spa, to indulge on. A perfect way to relax.

City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com .

The Palm Hotels graduation package for 2006

THE PALM HOTELS HONOR THE GRADUATES of 2006 with this year's special packages making Graduation Day a special and memorable event of their lifetime.

Las Palmas Hotel is proud to present its Graduation Blow-out to the Graduates of 2006. They will surely enjoy the special rate of P1,600 net for single, double or twin occupancy, plus a surprise gift. For reservations, you may visit the Sales Office at 1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila or call 521-1000 or 524-5612. For additional information, email sales@laspalmashotel.com.ph.

Palm Plaza Hotel celebrates Graduation Day! The graduates may get a room for single or double occupancy, for only P1,600 net. For inquiries and reservations, you may call the Sales Office at the 522-1000 or 524-7127. For more information, e-mail sales@palmplazahotel.com. Palm Plaza Hotel is located at 524 Pedro Gil cor. M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila.

Executive Plaza Hotel congratulates Batch 2006 Graduates! Situated at 1630 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila, the graduates can avail of their special blow out of P1,700 net, for double or twin occupancy. For inquiries and reservations, you may visit or call the Sales office at 523-1000 or 525-8969. For more information, e-mail sales@executiveplazahotel.com.

All promos are open for local residents and balikbayans only.

Fiesta San Miguel salutes the graduates of 2006

FIESTA SAN MIGUEL SALUTES THE GRADUATES of 2006 and offers the "Graduation Platter Package" - a "family style" set menu specially created to celebrate the occasion.

Choose from the Graduation Meat Platter (consist of buffalo chicken wings, chicharong bulaklak, pata ng baboy, footlong, veal bratwurst, cheese kreiner, atchara and mashed potato), Seafood Platter (consist of kilawin tanigue, gambas, calamares, nilasing na hipon, mashed potato, mashed potato and coleslaw), and the Mixed Meat & Seafood Platter (consist of chicken wings, chicharong bulaklak, nilasing na hipon, calamares and potato wedges) for a hefty feast with your family and peers. The 'Graduation Platter Package" starts at only P450++. As an added treat, every order comes with a complimentary 0.3 liter mug of fresh brewed beer for the graduates.

Hurry! It's summer fiesta at Fiesta San Miguel.

For inquiries and dining reservations, call 897-3333 extension 3308.

People, Events & Products

HMG, MMC HOLD COLLABORATIVE MEDICAL FORUM

Houston Medical Group (HMG) in cooperation with Makati Medical Center recently presented a collaborative medical forum on Advancements in Cancer Treatment from the Texas Medical Center. For more information, you may contact HMG at 888-5266. Shown in photo are Dr Victor Gisbert, MMC vascular surgeon; Dr. Steve Nazareth, MMC urologist; Dr. Dante Dator, MMC urologist-immunotherapist; Dr. Gary Lorenzo, MMC hematologist-oncologist; Dr. Brian Miles; Dr. Sewa Legha; Warren Whitehead, SLEH Int'l services vice president; and Leo de Leon, HMG president.

WIWAG SEMINARS END 1ST YEAR WITH A BANG

The Education for Youth Enterprise (EYE) Foundation capped 2005 with five more Wiwag Business Week student seminars. Sponsors were Holcim Philippines Inc for Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology and for Bulacan State University; Phinma Foundation Inc for Araullo University; Petron Foundation Inc for University of Makati; and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp for Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Recently, the Roxas Gargollo Foundation Inc signed a Memorandum of Agreement to sponsor a Wiwag pilot project in Batangas State University in Nasugbu, Batangas. EYE Foundation president Jocelyn Perez and Pedro Roxas, president of Roxas Gargollo Foundation Inc, signed the MoA, witnessed by EYE Foundation executive director Elaine Go-Mapa and Roxas Gargollo Foundation executive director Roy Luntayao

SATURDAY Special

Dennis, Francine stress importance of education

TRILLO. Finished school before pursuing passion for acting.

By Jocelyn Valle

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR when students march out of the classrooms and into the workforce.

That's what Dennis Trillo did some years ago after earning a degree in international studies from Miriam College. After a short stint on a senator's staff and in a telecommunications company, the self-confessed film buff followed his heart and tried his luck in show business.

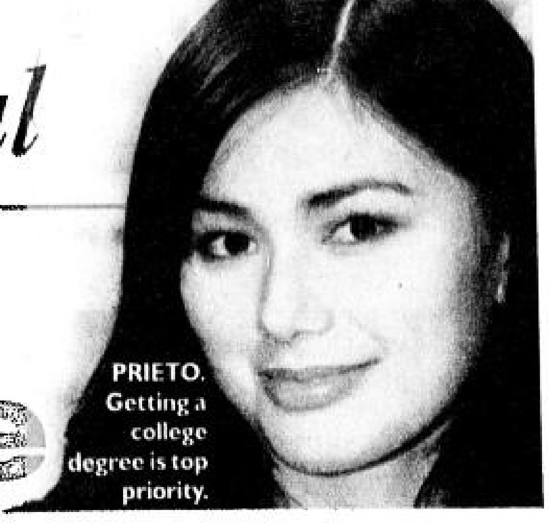
Balance

Other stars find ways to balance their studies and show business: Bettina Carlos, for instance, who's taking up AB Humanities at the Ateneo, chooses the "saner" taping schedule of a TV hosting job ("3R" on QTV Channel 11) over a drama series.

Francine Prieto juggles a daily primetime show ("Encantadia: Pag-ibig Hanggang Wakas,"), two weekly comedy programs, "Bahay Mo 'Ba 'To?" and "Bubble Gang,"—*and* working on a college degree at Adamson University.

"When I get home from taping, I just take a shower and go straight to class. It's tough, but I persevere. Education is important to me, *kasi hindi habang buhay ang* career *sa* show biz," she explains.

For her part, Melanie Marquez, who's currently pursuing a degree in business administration through a home-study program, encourages her colleagues in show biz to give education another go. "*Iba ang kaalamang hindi p'wedeng nakawin ninuman,*" she stresses.



PRIETO. Getting a college degree is top priority.

Walk the Biblical Path
of Jesus in
JORDAN, ISRAEL, EGYPT
w/ Rev. Fr. Corsie Legaspi
on
May 2006
For details please call / text
Salve cell. no. 09174110154
or 8262819 /
Alice 8290537 or 8299600
cell. no. 0927-5542951
Important note:
For visa purposes interested parties
may call immediately

JACKSON, COWELL AND ABDUL. Joining a singing tilt is serious business.

Competing to win

By Nestor U. Torre

AS ATHLETES COMPETING IN THE Olympics know only too well, the medals go only to those who compete, not just to try their luck, but to win.

With every last fiber of their being, they strive mightily to shave milliseconds off existing records.

When they step to receive their hard-won medals, they are completely drained, as though they have scaled a veritable mountain.

If this is how it goes in sports competitions, why should it be any different or easier in tilts in other spheres of human ability—for instance, singer searches like "American Idol"? Why, indeed?

"AI" jurors Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson want this year's finalists to realize that the popular and top-rating competition is much more than just a singing tilt.

Contestants

Throughout the audition period, and especially after the 24 finalists were selected, they have been urging the remaining contestants to see that, just as there's much at stake in the competition, it also requires a lot from its contestants.

Potential "AI" winners don't just need to sound and look good, they should also know which songs to choose to project their strengths in the best possible light.

They are constantly being urged to stop playing it safe, because both jurors and viewers remember only the finalists who make a unique impression on them.

Finalists should remember that, after a while, contestants' performances tend to become a blur, especially when they are evenly matched, so a special quality or "X-factor" is needed for a contestant to avoid elimination.

It's OK for a finalist to have fun while performing, because that makes his singing fresh. But, he should realize that, the performer's enjoyment aside, competing in a singing tilt is serious business.

Not only is a stellar show biz career at stake, but huge prizes are up for grabs as well. So, only the truly talented *and* determined can hope to win.

Empathy

In addition, singers need to know how to connect with their audience, to generate empathy, and to make viewers care so strongly for them that they'll support them with their votes—all the way.

Finalists should also know which songs to avoid performing. For instance, don't sing songs strongly identified with a famous singer, because your interpretation will most likely be unfairly compared to the original.

Finally, contestants should perform so well that they come off as clearly superior to the rest of the field of finalists. This "wow factor" is what makes stars different from and better than the madding crowd, and is musical tilts' equivalent to Olympic gold!

NESTEA
"coz it's mainit"
Unbeatable NESTEA refreshment; 100% RDA Vitamin C goodness in every ice-cold pitcher. Mom, it's the most refreshing way to beat the tropical heat.
Mix it, Mom :)
NESTEA
Plunge into the MIX

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN • THX
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
2 V FOR VENDETTA
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
3 HOUSE OF FURY
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
4 SHAGGY DOG
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
5 HOSTEL
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
6 SHE'S THE MAN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 DATE MOVIE
1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45
8 BREAKING NEWS
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
9 16 BLOCKS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 THE DARK
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 V FOR VENDETTA 12:35 3:40 6:40 9:50
2 16 BLOCKS 12:20 2:30
THE DARK 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 SHE'S THE MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
4 HOUSE OF FURY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 HOSTEL
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 SHAGGY DOG
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
7 DATE MOVIE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE DARK
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 V FOR VENDETTA
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
3 HOSTEL
11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05
4 DATE MOVIE
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00
5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
6 SHAGGY DOG
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
7 16 BLOCKS
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
8 SHE'S THE MAN
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 SHAGGY DOG
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
4 HOSTEL
5 HOUSE OF FURY

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2676

1 FEARLESS
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOSTEL
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 SHAGGY DOG

JUICY FRUIT® Gimik Card

Buy 1 Take 1 Promo EXTENDED!

February 13 to March 31, 2006

Buy your Juicy Fruit Multipacks with Gimik Cards from selected Robinsons Supermarket and Supercenter branches nationwide. Redeem your Robinsons Movieworld Buy 1 Take 1 Coupon from the Customer Service Counters.

Per DTI-ADT Permit No. 0189, series of 2006

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOSTEL
3 TIGER BLADE
4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
5 AEON FLUX

LIPA (043) 757-3084 (043) 312-5870

1 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
2 HOSTEL
3 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
4 AEON FLUX

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 CASANOVA
2 LAST HOLIDAY
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 HOSTEL
5 V FOR VENDETTA

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOSTEL
3 MURDER
4 AEON FLUX

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 CASANOVA
2 HOSTEL
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 LAST HOLIDAY
6 TIGER BLADE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

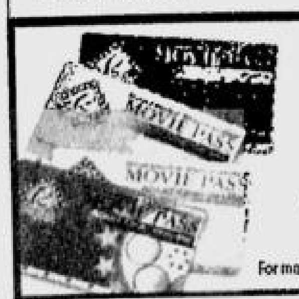
1 16 BLOCKS
2 HOSTEL
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
5 CASANOVA
6 V FOR VENDETTA

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOSTEL
3 NEW WORLD
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
5 MURDER
6 FEARLESS

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 16 BLOCKS
3 CASANOVA
4 HOSTEL
5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
6 FEARLESS



The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 local 14 and 15

SM CINEMA

movietime

SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999

CENTER stage

LIVE-LARGE

831-1000 loc. 2671, 2673, 2682, 2691

BIG MOVIES • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

Now

Share a movie with a loved one with SM Cinema's

50%OFF

treat on your 2nd ticket!

Starts on March 15 to April 30, 2006

Mondays to Thursdays

Buy one ticket and get your 2nd ticket at half the price. *Cannot be combined with other promos. *Not valid with blocked screenings. * Same transaction only*Not valid on holiday*

MEGAMALL * STA. MESA * MANILA * PODIUM * FAIRVIEW * SOUTHMALL
SAN LAZARO * PAMPANGA * BAGUIO * VALENZUELA * MARILAO * LUCENA
MOLINO** *BATANGAS * CEBU * DAVAO* CAGAYAN DE ORO

**Promo starts on April 15, 2006

MEDIA PARTNERS 96.3WRocK iFM 93.9

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1125 SERIES OF 2006

SM CENTER stage

in good company ENTERTAINMENT

PRESENTS

TONIGHT!

BARBIE & ROCKSTEDDY

SM MANILA CINEMA 4 • 6:00 PM

Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-9999

METRO MANILA

THE PODIUM

V FOR VENDETTA
12:10 FS / 12:35 MF / 03:20
06:05 / 08:20 LFS
08:50 LMF / 11:05 END
SHE'S THE MAN
01:40 FS / 02:10 MF / 04:25
06:40 / 08:30 LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:50 END

SM MEGACINEMA

1 BREAKING NEWS
2 HOUSE OF FURY
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 RENOVATION
5 THE DARK
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 FEARLESS
8 SHAGGY DOG
9 16 BLOCKS
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 CASANOVA
12 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 FEARLESS
3 HOUSE OF FURY
4 RESERVED
5 SHAGGY DOG
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY DASMARINAS

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 AEON FLUX
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 CASANOVA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

1 BREAKING NEWS
2 YOUR'S MINE & OURS
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 16 BLOCKS
5 FINAL DESTINATION 3
6 FEARLESS
7 V FOR VENDETTA
8 SHAGGY DOG
9 SHE'S THE MAN
10 CLOSE TO YOU
11 THE DARK
12 HOUSE OF FURY

SM CITY STA. MESA

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 16 BLOCKS
4 SHE'S THE MAN
5 FEARLESS
6 THE DARK
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 HOUSE OF FURY
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 CASANOVA

SM CITY BICUTAN

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 CASANOVA
3 THE DARK
4 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 16 BLOCKS
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 SHE'S THE MAN

SM CITY MANILA

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 FEARLESS
4 BARBIE LIVE CONCERT
5 SHAGGY DOG
6 16 BLOCKS
11:30FS / 01:30 / 03:30
05:30/ 07:30 / 09:15LFS /
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END
7 BREAKING NEWS
8 HOUSE OF FURY
9 FINAL DESTINATION 3
10 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
11 CLOSE TO YOU
12 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY SOUTHMALL

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 FEARLESS
3 RESERVED
4 16 BLOCKS
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 SHAGGY DOG
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3
9 THE DARK
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 16 BLOCKS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 THE DARK

SM CITY SUCAT

1 SHAGGY DOG
2 V FOR VENDETTA
3 16 BLOCKS
4 CLOSE TO YOU

One, two, three, FREE!

SM CINEMA

Get 4 tickets for the price of 3!
This promo is valid only during the 3-day mallwide sale at
SM Fairview & Dasmariñas from March 17,18 & 19
Not applicable with other SM Cinema promos.

Per DTI-NCR Permit number A3-0210, Series of 2006
Per DTI-Cavite Permit number 078 Series of 2006

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO

1 NEW WORLD
2 CASANOVA
3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
4 V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY MARILAO

1 CASANOVA
2 SYRIANA
3 16 BLOCKS
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY BATANGAS

1 PRIME
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 FEARLESS
4 SYRIANA

SM CITY BACOOR

1 THE DARK
2 16 BLOCKS
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 SHAGGY DOG
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 FEARLESS
8 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY STA. ROSA

1 LAST HOLIDAY
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 AEON FLUX
4 V FOR VENDETTA

SM CITY PAMPANGA

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 CASANOVA
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 FEARLESS
6 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY LUCENA

1 FEARLESS
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 SAW 2
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

SM CITY MOLINO

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 THE DARK
3 TIGER BLADE
4 FEARLESS

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU

1 FEARLESS
11:10FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30
03:30 / 05: 30
07:30 09:18 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:35 END
2 V FOR VENDETTA
10:50FS / 11:10 MF
01:45 / 04:20
06:55 / 09:10 LFS /
09:30 LMF / 11:45 END
3 NEW WORLD
10:50FS / 11:10 MF
01:45 / 04:20
06:55 / 09:10 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:45 END
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
5 GOAL
6 16 BLOCKS
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 RESERVED

SM CITY ILOILO

1 CASANOVA
2 RESERVED
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 FEARLESS
5 V FOR VENDETTA
6 UNDERCLASS MAN
7 RESERVED
8 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY DAVAO

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 FEARLESS
3 FIREWALL
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 AEON FLUX
6 16 BLOCKS

SM CITY CAGAYAN

1 SYRIANA
2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 PINK PANTHER

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

'Paradise Now' examines terrorism

By Nestor U. Torre

THE 2006 BANGKOK International Film Festival showcased a number of controversial productions, but the most heatedly discussed and fought over film was the Palestinian production, "Paradise Now."

We had already gotten word about its controversial nature, so we lined up early for our ticket to see the film.

SRO affair

It's a good thing that we got our ticket right away, because the screening turned out to be an SRO affair.

We'd heard that, in some screenings of the movie in other countries, some members of the audience had loudly protested its showing, labeling it a biased propaganda piece in favor of Palestinian terrorists.

At the Bangkok filmfest, however, the audience took the film more in stride, and at the end of the screening, there were no boos—there was even a smattering of applause.

Right after the screening, a number of viewers stayed on at the theater lobby to discuss what they had seen, and most of them shared that, for a Palestinian production, they found the film fairly balanced.

Suicide bombers

They pointed out that, although the production spent most of its running time "humanizing" its two main suicide bombers and explaining why they had been pushed to taking this extreme step.

The movie also bothered to discuss arguments *against* terrorism, and to present characters who felt that terrorism *increased* oppression and wouldn't lead to the defeat of an oppressive regime.

The film's title refers to the promise of heaven that suicide bombers hold on to, to steel themselves into deciding to give up their lives to boost their cause.

The production traces the incidents in the lives of two young Palestinian men as they move from their world of work to a new, potent rendezvous with death—as instruments of terror in Nablus.

Ominous

Said and his friend, Khaled, work as car mechanics in an old garage. They take time off, relax, smoke a water pipe, and do all of the usual things that young men do—until they're approached by a man who brings them an ominous message.

From that moment on, they become comrades in arms, intent only on preparing themselves for their deadly mission.

This is where the film's pace changes, and rather than the expected melodrama, viewers witness

PARADISE/ A4-3

Enduring line, classic catfight recalled

FROM RONA DE LIM: "How did the classic movie line, 'You're nothing but a second-rate, trying-hard copycat,' from 'Bituing Walang Ningning' come about?"

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

The classic catfight between Dorina Pineda (played by Sharon Cuneta) and Lavinia Arguelles (Cherie Gil) over fame and Nico Escobar (Christopher de Leon) in Emmanuel H. Borlaza and Leroy Salvador's "Bituing Walang Ningning" (1985) has become an indelible part of local cinema's movie lore—from its scathing verbal exchanges and "succulent" face-slapping sequences to the campy but oh-so-*Pinoy* water-and-wine throwing scene.

More punch

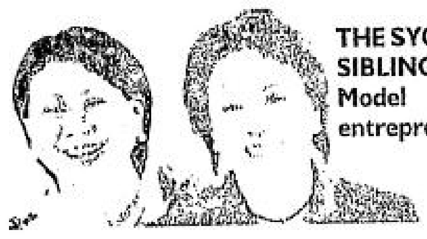
The original script only had the line: "You're nothing but a copycat!" But, the scene needed more punch. So, acting icon **Tommy Abuel**—who was in the cast—suggested spicing up the verbal tussle by adding "second-rate" and "trying hard" to the caustic line—and, given Cherie's aptitude for delivering "venomous" lines directed at initially subservient female protagonists, *voila*!

Another bit of trivia: The role of Lavinia was originally offered to Zsa Zsa Padilla, who wasn't ready then to wear a bathing suit and do kissing scenes. Padilla went on to become a good actress herself. But, if she played the demanding role, would she have made a better nemesis to poor Dorina?

* * *

On a personal note, I'd like to thank three of my high school mentors— Gloria Geverola, Gilda Bayla and Henrietta Sosmeña—for their wonderful company over sumptuous lunch when I visited my beloved mom, Dr. Vinefreda P. Asilo, in Davao last week.

GIL. Memorably nasty in "Bituing Walang Ningning."



THE SYCIP SIBLINGS. Model entrepreneurs.

Sister act

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

GRACE SYCIP-Chuachiaco and Addie Sycip-Cukingnan put up the Kitaro food chain with five friends.

Grace and Addie were just teenagers when their dad, John Sycip, passed away.

After graduation, the sisters, together with Dr. Zenaida Panganiban, Luzviminda Fine, Susana Ong, sister in law Marian Sycip and Li Pantoja, put up a garment factory which, unfortunately, failed to take off.

Constant trips

The ladies then brainstormed and founded Kitaro in 1999. From Grace and Addie's constant trips abroad, they came up with the idea of selling *sushi* and *sashimi* at affordable prices—and *voila*, their hard work finally paid off: The franchise now has 41 branches!

Next month, Kitaro will be awarded the Globalbrand's Seal of Quality as the Biggest Japanese Restaurant Chain in the Philippines, while the Sycip sisters will be given the Year-Ender Excellence Model Achiever Award for Business and Entrepreneurship.

* * *

The Mandy Navasero Summer Photoworkshop will start on April 8, and runs until May 27. Also, the MN Batanes Photo Safari is scheduled from April 12 to 15 (jointly with Fiesta Tours). Call 899-1767 or 896-3208.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com

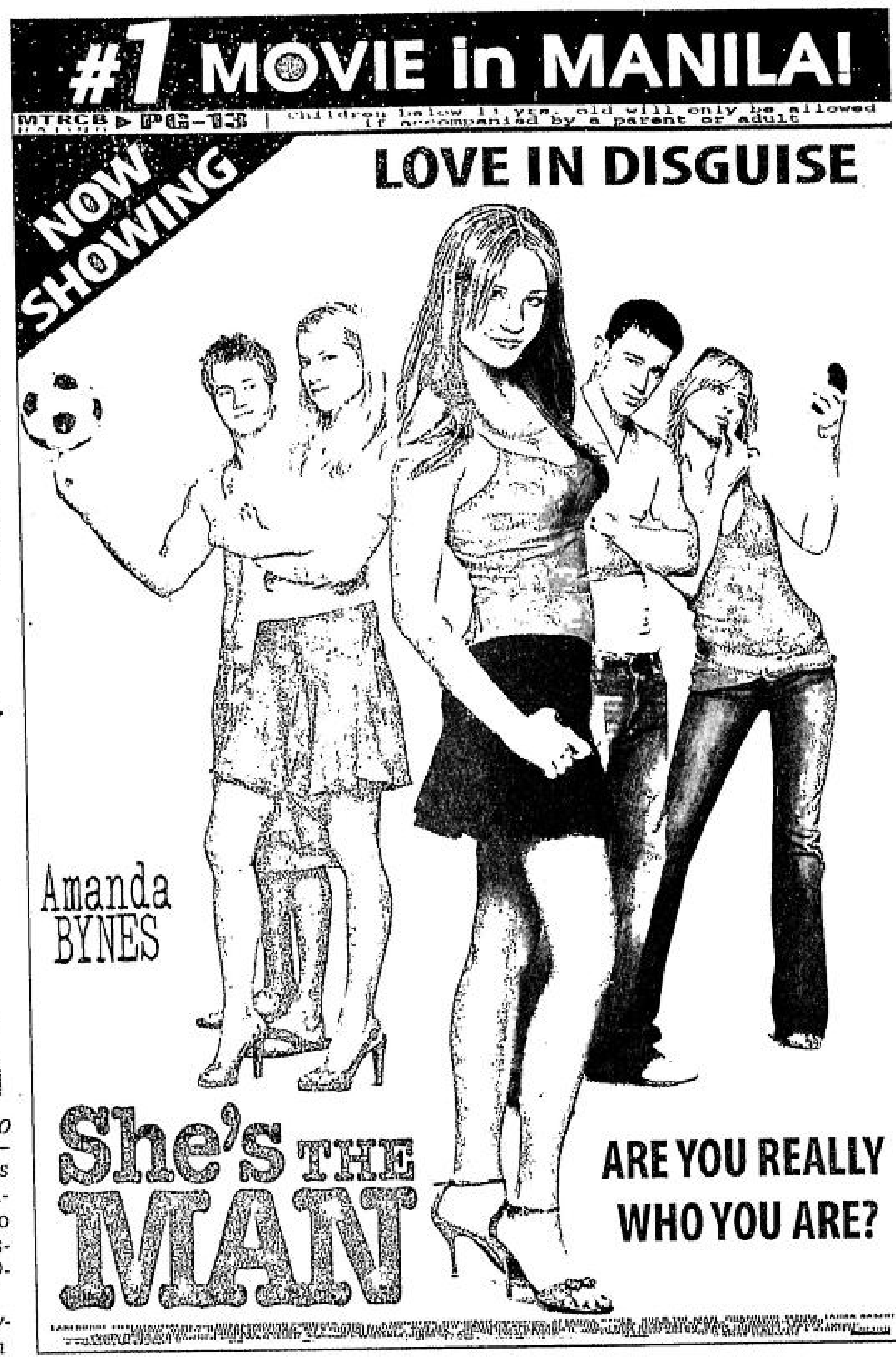
'Paradise

From page A4-2

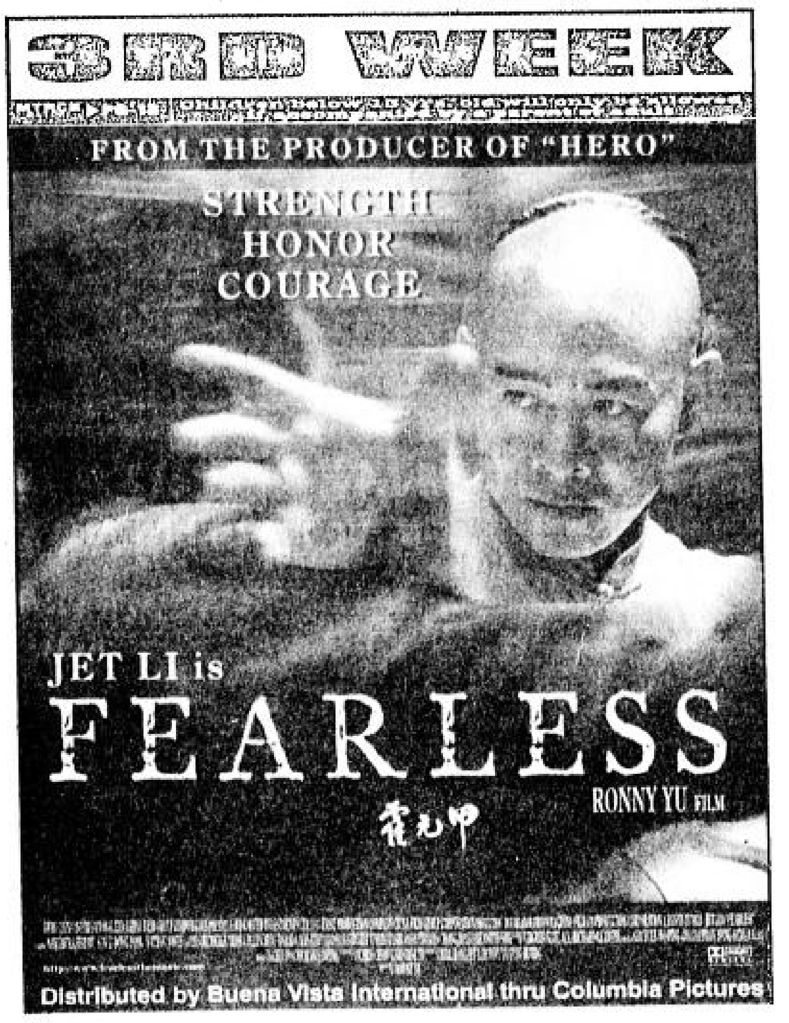
the exact procedures that are followed: The men are shaved, they record their final messages to their families, they meet the people in charge of their operation, and follow all directions.

At this point, however, things go wrong. They panic, and find themselves running around Nablus with bombs attached to their torsos.

Differing points of view regarding violence, heroism and fruitful results are expressed, but the film still ends in favor of the young men's mission.

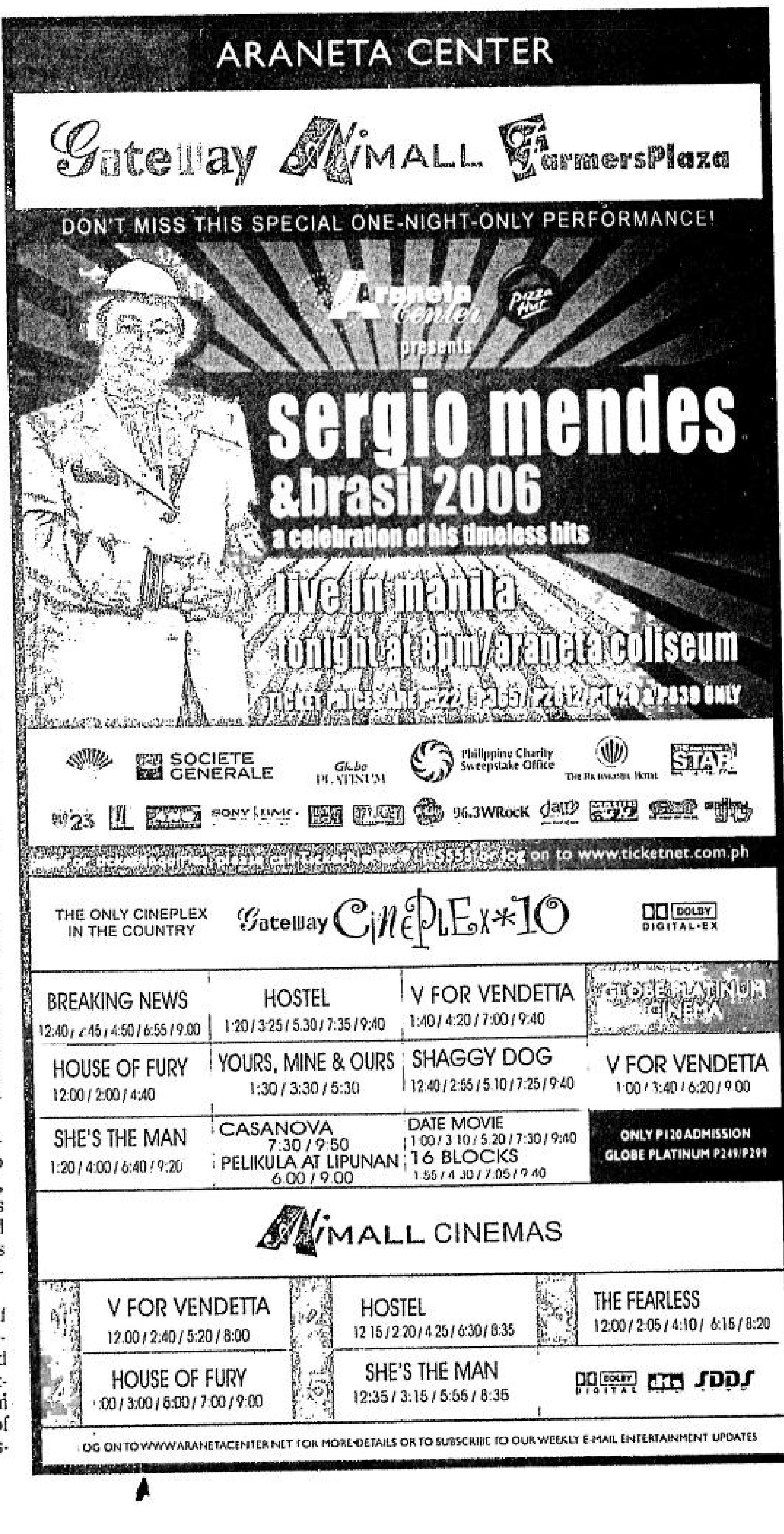


#1 MOVIE in MANILA!
MTRCB ▶ PG-13 | children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
NOW SHOWING
LOVE IN DISGUISE
Amanda BYNES
She's THE MAN
ARE YOU REALLY WHO YOU ARE?



3RD WEEK
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "HERO"
STRENGTH
HONOR
COURAGE
JET LI is
FEARLESS
RONNY YU FILM
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB ▶ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
TIM ALLEN is
Walt Disney
THE SHAGGY DOG
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


ARANETA CENTER

Gateway Ali MALL Farmers Plaza

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL ONE-NIGHT-ONLY PERFORMANCE!

Araneta Center Pizza Hut presents

sergio mendes &brasil 2006

a celebration of his timeless hits

live in manila

tonight at 8pm/araneta coliseum

TICKET PRICES ARE P2224 / P1365 / P2812 / P1020 & P839 ONLY

[illegible] on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

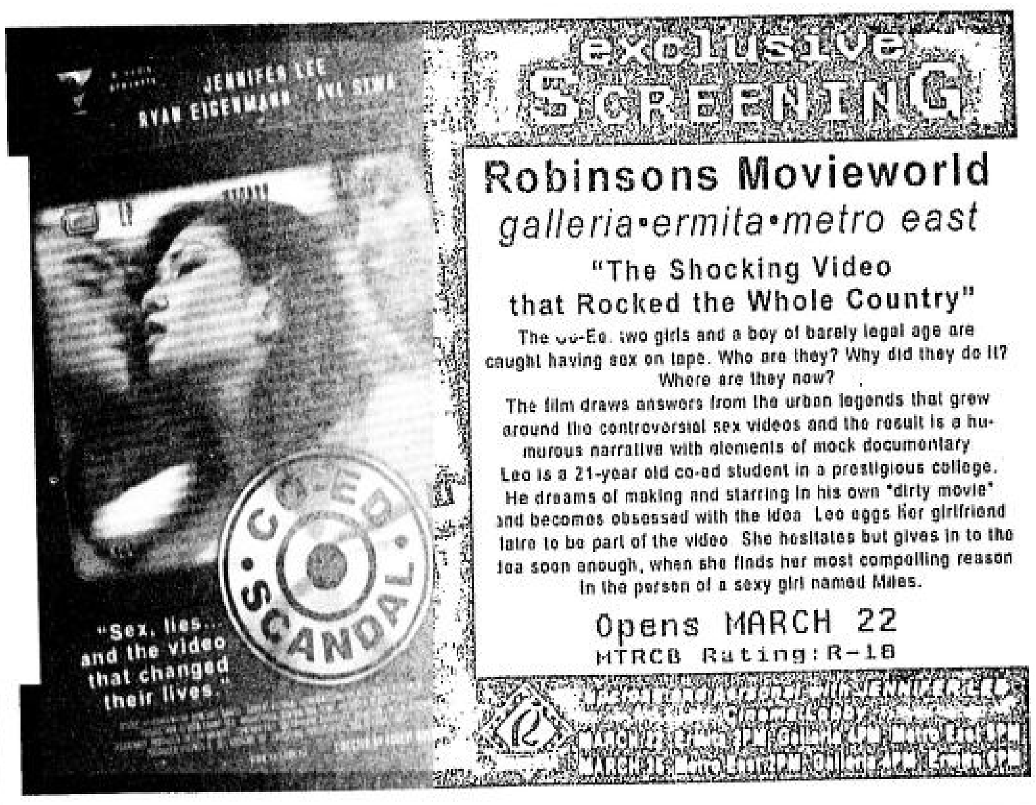
THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY — Gateway CINEPLEX*10 — DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

BREAKING NEWS 12:40 / 2:45 / 4:50 / 6:55 / 9:00	HOSTEL 1:20 / 3:25 / 5.30 / 7:35 / 9:40	V FOR VENDETTA 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HOUSE OF FURY 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:40	YOURS, MINE & OURS 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30	SHAGGY DOG 12:40 / 2:55 / 5.10 / 7:25 / 9:40	V FOR VENDETTA 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
SHE'S THE MAN 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	CASANOVA 7:30 / 9:50 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 6:00 / 9:00	DATE MOVIE 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40 16 BLOCKS 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

Ali MALL CINEMAS

V FOR VENDETTA 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00	HOSTEL 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35	THE FEARLESS 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
HOUSE OF FURY 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	SHE'S THE MAN 12:35 / 3:15 / 5:55 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

LOG ON TO WWW.ARANETACENTER.NET FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES



JENNIFER LEE
RYAN EICENMANN
AVI SIWA
CO-ED SCANDAL
"Sex, lies... and the video that changed their lives."

exclusive SCREENING

Robinsons Movieworld

galleria•ermita•metro east

"The Shocking Video that Rocked the Whole Country"

The Co-Ed: two girls and a boy of barely legal age are caught having sex on tape. Who are they? Why did they do it? Where are they now?

The film draws answers from the urban legends that grew around the controversial sex videos and the result is a humurous narrative with elements of mock documentary

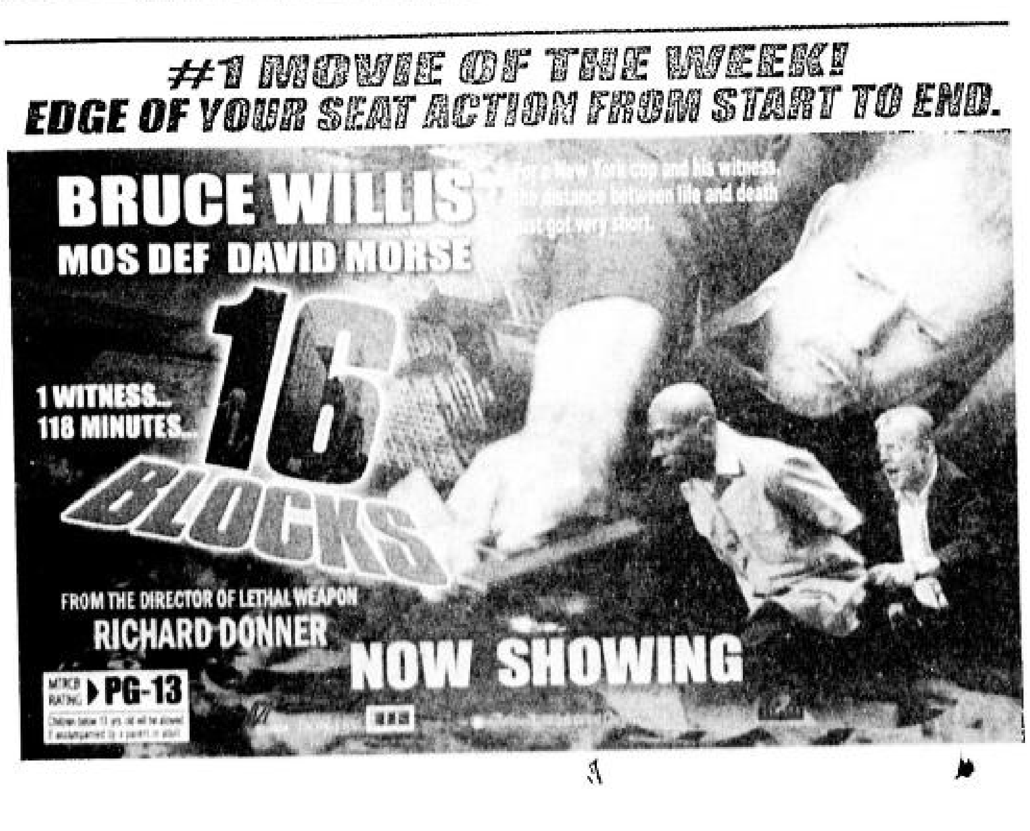
Leo is a 21-year old co-ed student in a prestigious college. He dreams of making and starring in his own "dirty movie" and becomes obsessed with the idea. Leo eggs her girlfriend Claire to be part of the video. She hesitates but gives in to the idea soon enough, when she finds her most compelling reason in the person of a sexy girl named Miles.

Opens MARCH 22

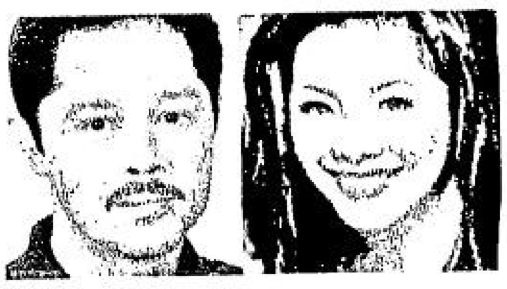
MTRCB Rating:R-18

[illegible]

#1 MOVIE OF THE WEEK!
EDGE OF YOUR SEAT ACTION FROM START TO END.



BRUCE WILLIS
MOS DEF DAVID MORSE
For a New York cop and his witness, the distance between life and death just got very short.
1 WITNESS...
118 MINUTES...
16 BLOCKS
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LETHAL WEAPON
RICHARD DONNER
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13



DE LEON AND VELASQUEZ. Refreshing renditions.

Choice cuts and worthy covers

By Rito P. Asilo

FOR MANY YEARS NOW, THE RECORDING industry has been reeling from the debilitating effects of piracy. Indeed, the problem is as rampant as ever.

But, many local music *aficionados* refuse to languish in endless rhetoric and focus instead on a few bright spots: The rise of indies (which infuse the concert and recording scenes with fresh new blood and innovative ideas); more affordable prices, and the reemergence of well-loved standards and OPM classics.

Treasure trove

In his well-produced solo recording, the 12-track **"Mga Awit-Pelikula ni Christopher de Leon,"** the country's most enduring dramatic heartthrob flexes his vocal pipes and taps into the local film industry's treasure trove of well-loved movie themes and little-known gems. Appropriately, the songs come from some of his most memorable big-screen classics.

Polished but not without flaws (a vocal coach should have reined in the actor's vibrato in some numbers), De Leon delivers stirring renditions of Ryan Cayabyab's "Iduyan Mo" (from "Aguila"); Roni and GiGi Cordero's "Hanggang" (from "Dekada '70"); Joseph Olfindo and Jun Latonio's "Tuwing Umaga" (from "Kung Mangarap Ka't Magising"); George Canseco and Rey Valera's "Sinasamba Kita"; Willy Cruz's "Bituing Walang Ningning" and, our top picks, Jim Paredes' "Sisikat Din Ako" (from "Kakabakaba Ka Ba?") and Willy Cruz and Baby Gil's "Beloved."

Regine Velasquez and Sharon Cuneta, join him in his covers of Louie Ocampo's "You Are My Song" (from "Wanted: Perfect Mother") and Cruz and Gil's "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan" (from "Bituing Walang Ningning").

No-frills version

Remakes that also deserve the radio airplay they're enjoying right now are Nina's no-frills version of Eric Kaz and Tom Snow's "I'll Always Love You" (featured in the CD soundtrack of the Richard Gutierrez-Angel Locsin starrer **"I Will Always Love You"**) and Piolo Pascual's soulful cover of Tony Macauley's "Don't Give Up On Us" (included in Piolo's **"Platinum Hits"** album).

For her part, Velasquez has, of late, been busy guesting in many singers' recordings—from Nonoy Zuniga's **"The Love Album"** (in Heymann and Young's "When I Fall in Love") to Christopher de Leon's debut collection.

In "Bakit Ba Iniibig Ka?," Asia's Song Bird plays beautiful music with young balladeer, Erik Santos (culled from the latter's latest compilation, **"Loving You Now"**). The husky-voiced singing champion comes into his own by bravely venturing into originals.

Vocal bliss

If you prefer to listen to Regine non-stop, though, the singer's latest release, **"Covers, Vol. 2,"** features 16 songs of unadulterated musical fun and vocal bliss. Topping the play list: Hall and Oates' "Kiss on My List," Paul McCartney's "Silly Love Songs"; Sheena Easton's "So Much in Love," Jeff Lynne's "Xanadu" and Alanis Morissette's "Head Over Feet."

Five-channel lineup beefs up HBO programming

AS PART OF ITS HBO/MAX PAK PROMO TO expand its multi-channel programming strategy, HBO Asia will launch three new premium channels next month—HBO Signature, HBO Family and HBO Hits—to complement the main HBO channel (for blockbuster films) and Cinemax (for action and suspense).

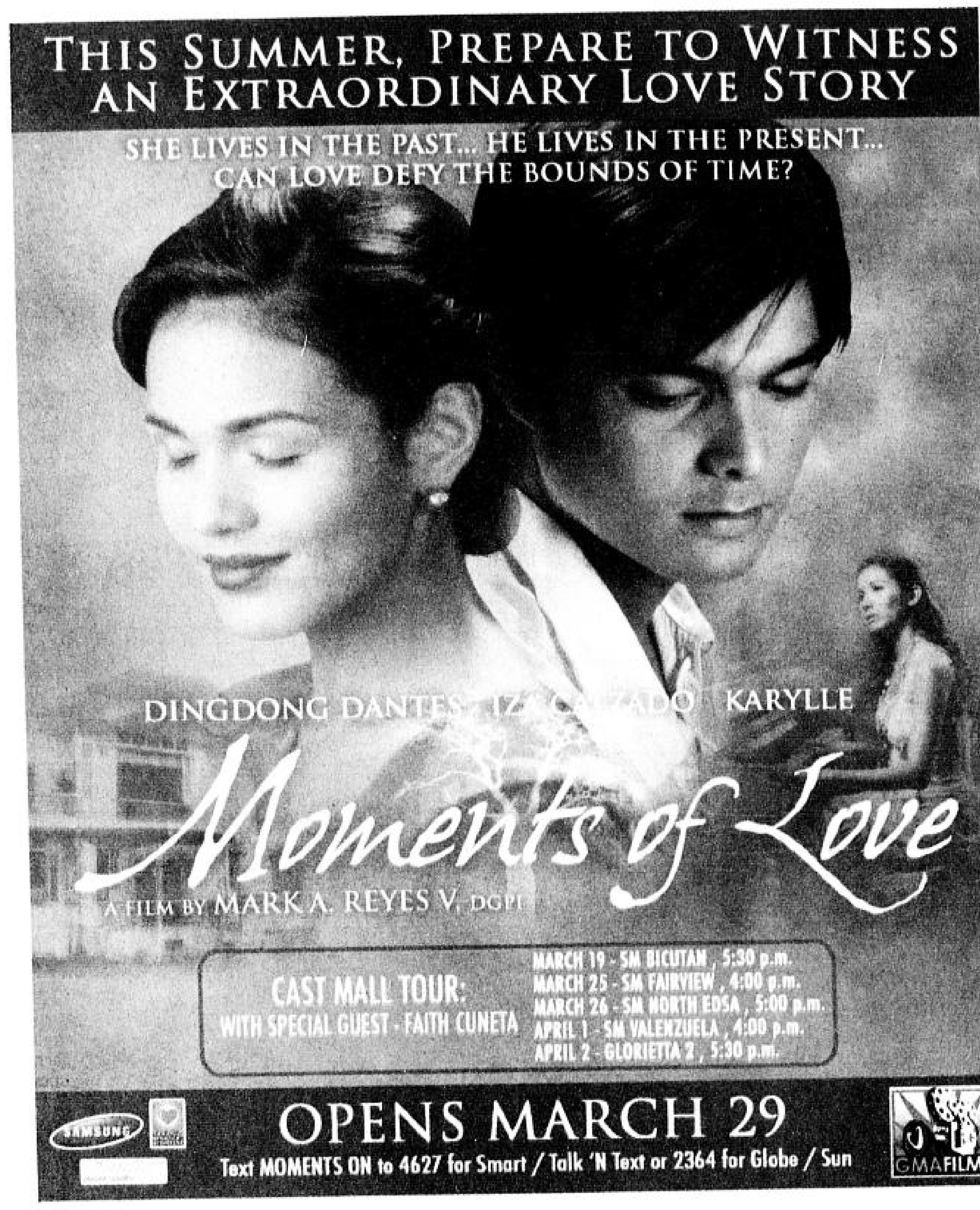
HBO Asia's Caroline Wong was in town this week to introduce the novel concept: **HBO Signature** offers provocative features like Mike Nichol's "Closer," Hector Babenco's gritty Brazilian prison drama, "Carandiru," HBO originals like "Dirty War," as well as back-to-back marathons of popular series like "The Sopranos," "Carnivale" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

HBO Family features wholesome flicks (animated films, well-loved domestic dramas and romantic-comedies like "The American President" and "The First Wives Club") for the young and the young at heart. **HBO Hits** (for the busy viewer) showcases seven blockbuster movies every week that are programmed in a cascading schedule.

MONTAGE 'Archipelago Sanctuaries'

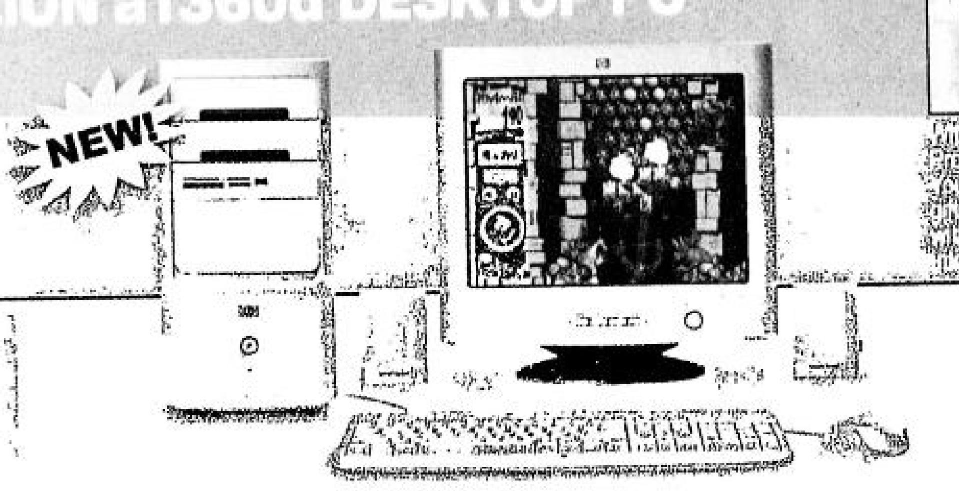
Make sure you get a copy of Amadis Ma. Guerrero's sixth travel book, "The Archipelago Sanctuaries." In his latest collection, Guerrero once again explores the beautiful Philippine countryside—from tourist-friendly spots (Banaue, Sagada, El Nido) to little-known but nevertheless beautiful destinations (Badian, Tablas, Orani)—and makes the usually staid travelogue book genre entertaining and engaging.

The author peppers his compact, detail-heavy prose with wit, humor ("It was not a Rush Supper," he describes the fine craftsmanship of a "Last Supper" carving), social commentaries and helpful tips on how to get to these places—a valuable book for local tourists and insatiable travelers this summer.



THIS SUMMER, PREPARE TO WITNESS AN EXTRAORDINARY LOVE STORY
SHE LIVES IN THE PAST... HE LIVES IN THE PRESENT... CAN LOVE DEFY THE BOUNDS OF TIME?
DINGDONG DANTES IZA CALZADO KARYLLE
Moments of Love
A FILM BY MARK A. REYES V, DGPI
CAST MALL TOUR:
WITH SPECIAL GUEST - FAITH CUNETA
MARCH 19 - SM BICUTAN, 5:30 p.m.
MARCH 25 - SM FAIRVIEW, 4:00 p.m.
MARCH 26 - SM NORTH EDSA, 5:00 p.m.
APRIL 1 - SM VALENZUELA, 4:00 p.m.
APRIL 2 - GLORIETTA 2, 5:30 p.m.
OPENS MARCH 29
Text MOMENTS ON to 4627 for Smart / Talk 'N Text or 2364 for Globe / Sun
SAMSUNG GMA FILMS

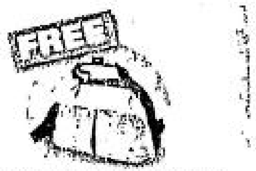
0% interest installment
plus hp fabulous gifts worth up to P 6,000
Who needs FUN OUTDOORS WHEN YOU HAVE THE
HP PAVILION a1360d DESKTOP PC
HP recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional.



NEW!

P 7,665.00/month
6 months 0% interest³

P 45,990.00 | HP Pavilion a1360d Desktop PC
- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 524 supporting HT Technology^+ (1MB L2 Cache, 3.06GHz, 533MHz FSB)
- Genuine Windows® XP Home
- 256MB DDR
- 80.0 GB Serial ATA hard drive at 7200RPM
- CD/RW/DVD Combo Drive
- Integrated stereo sound system. Dolby 7.1 Surround Sound Ready
- 9-in-1 Digital Media Reader
- ITU V.90 K56 flex Modem
- Integrated 10/100 BaseT network interface (Broadband Ready)
- HP De Luxe Multi-media Keyboard and Mouse
- 17" Flat Screen CRT Monitor
- 1 year world-wide warranty
- Free HP DeskJet DJ3920 worth P2,120



FREE
HP ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS BAG
worth P6,000.00 with a purchase of HP Pavilion w5260d Desktop PC⁵

With all these inside

Gaming Pad
with Vibration Mode

Stereo Headset

FREE
DJ3920
printer worth P2,120.00 with a purchase of HP Pavilion a1360d Desktop PC⁴

THESE HP PAVILION DESKTOP PC's HAVE
Upgrade your viewing experience on these desktop when you upgrade the HP 17" CRT Monitor to LCD Monitors:
HP 15" LCD Monitor*, P6,000 or
HP 17" LCD Monitor**, P9,000
*HP 15" LCD Monitor SRP P13,990
**HP 17" LCD Monitor SRP P16,990
Convenient plug-and-play I/O port
Versatile 9-in-1 media card reader

LightScribe Technology
Burn your DVD and silkscreen images on your disc with the latest LightScribe technology
Media Drive^ with capacity of 160GB
ONLY AVAILABLE WITH HP PAVILION w5260d DESKTOP PC

P 9,998.33/month
6 months 0% interest³

P 59,990.00 | HP Pavilion w5260d Desktop PC
- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 519^ (1MB L2 Cache, 3.06GHz, 533MHz FSB)
- Genuine Windows® XP Home
- Intel® 915GV Chipset
- 256MB DDR
- 160.0 GB Serial ATA hard drive at 7200RPM
- Lightscribe Double Layer DVD+/ RW
- ATI Radeon x300SE 128MB Graphics Card
- Integrated stereo sound system Dolby 5.1 Surround Sound Ready
- 9-in-1 Digital Media Reader
- ITU V.90 K56 flex Modem
- HP De Luxe Multi-media Keyboard and Mouse
- 17" LCD Monitor
- 1 year world-wide warranty
- Free HP Entertainment Sports Bag worth P6,000

intel Pentium 4 inside

Participating Reseller: HP Branded Stores – HP Home and Business Center (Glorietta) 752-8821; HP Store - DLSU Taft 536-3245; HP Store - Ortigas Computer Depot 636-7589; HP Store - Cebu (032)346-2962, 232-4546
HP Pavilion Reseller – Accent Micro/PC Live 771-0779, 633-1722; Complink/E Hub 637-3988, 637-4444-45; Electroworld 812-3868/927-9525; PCWorx 725-1819; Octagon 635-9080, 867-1705; The Computer Authority 633-1594, 810-5090

¹0% interest valid for 6 month installment plans only. ²Trial version of game: 60 minutes of play time per game. Full version available for purchase. ³Available through BPI Card in all participating reseller except Octagon which accepts only Metrobank Cards and HP Store Cebu only accepts Equitable Cards. ⁴Available through all participating resellers until March 19, 2006. ⁵Available through all participating resellers until March 19, 2006. ^Media Drive sold separately.
©2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Corp. [illegible] information Microsoft and Windows are U.S. Registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.

hp invent
LAMCO INTERNATIONAL

MAGBAYAD NG TAMANG BUWIS
bago ang April 17 deadline.
30 DAYS TO GO
Ang Ating Kontribusyon Sa Solusyon

Website: www.inq7money.net
BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

From Pagudpud to Sorsogon
1114 km*
on just one full tank.
XTRA
*Actual test result on a 1300cc vehicle, as certified true by Automobile Association of the Philippines and Car Awards Group, Inc.
PETRON

Budget deficit kept below P48-B ceiling

Despite overspending, 2-month shortfall reached only P40.4B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT kept its cash budget shortfall at P40.4 billion for the first two months of this year—16 percent below the ceiling—as improved revenue collections offset higher spending due to debt servicing.

The Department of Finance yesterday announced that in February, when the 2-percentage increase in the value-added tax rate (VAT) took effect, the fiscal deficit amounted to P25 billion or P2.2 billion lower than the ceiling.

The government was able to keep its two-month budget deficit below the programmed ceiling of P48.1 billion, despite some overspending in February.

"Our revenue-enhancing measures are yielding desired results," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said. "Hopefully, this will help us achieve our revenue goal this year."

The collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Treasury jumped across the board, helping the government raise P136.9 billion in revenues for January to February.

The figure exceeded by P9.1 billion the 2-month revenue target set at P127.8 billion.

The two-month revenues also grew by 21.1 percent compared to the P113.1 billion posted in the same period last year.

The BIR exceeded its collection target for the first two months by P2.5 billion as revenues, which hit P91.2 billion, went up 23.8 percent versus a year ago.

BUDGET/ B2

PAL to pay more, train more to stem pilot exodus

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST AIRLINE will progressively increase the wages and benefits of its pilots as part of a broader personnel retention program to be implemented over the next few years.

Philippine Airlines (PAL) has already implemented the first phase of the plan with pilots' retirement pay being hiked to 33½ days for every year of service, representing a 50-percent hike from the old level of 22½ days for every year in service.

PAL president Jaime J. Bautista said the program was meant to stem the exodus of the flag carrier's pilots to higher paying jobs with foreign airlines.

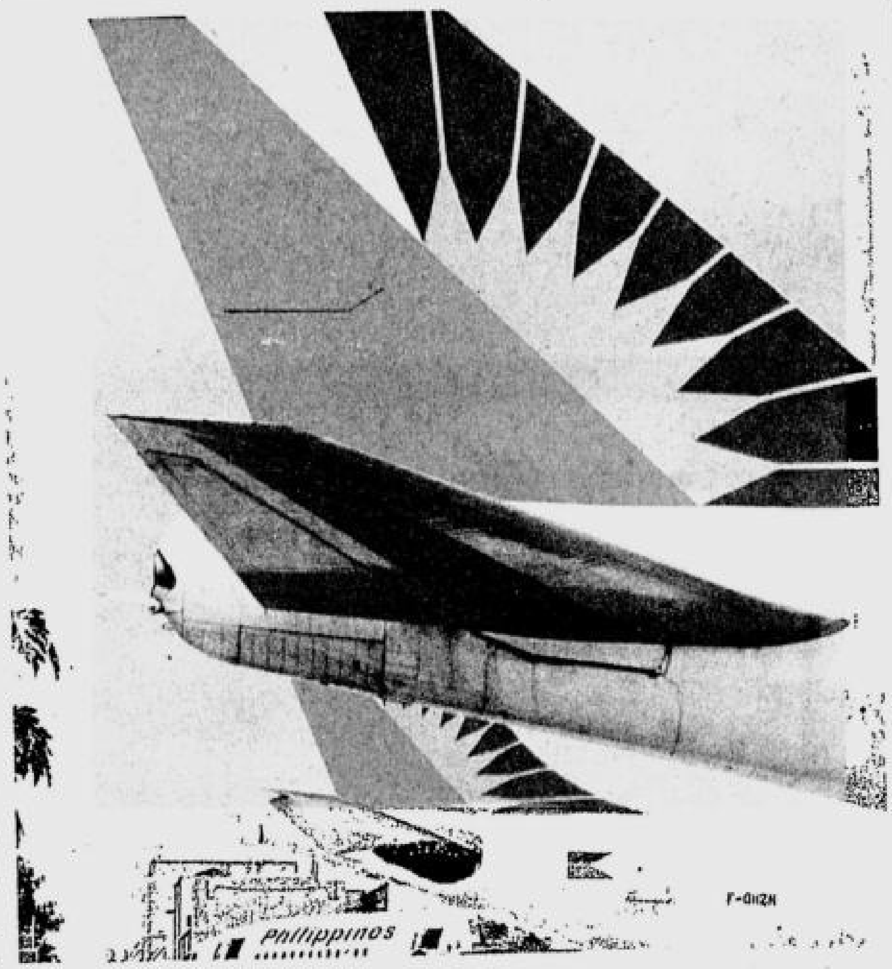
"We are implementing measures to address the problem," Bautista said in a recent interview with reporters.

He said the immediate solution to the airline pilot "brain drain" was to increase their salaries and benefits.

At present, PAL pilots earn as little as $4,000 a year for co-pilots of small jet aircraft on domestic routes, to as much as $7,000 for full-fledged captains on wide-body jets like the Boeing 747-400 and the Airbus A340, which are used for long-haul, international flights.

In contrast, foreign airlines—especially the more affluent Middle East-based carriers—attract pilots with packages that start at $10,000 a year.

During the briefing, PAL vice president for flight operations John R. Andrews revealed that the pilot exodus began in earnest three years ago, when nine pilots resigned to join foreign carriers. In 2004, 22 pilots left, followed by another 28 pilots last year.



FILIPINO pilots earn about $4,000 to $7,000 a year—a far cry from the packages offered by foreign airlines that start at $10,000 a year.

"So far this year, 15 have already resigned, and it's only March," Andrews said.

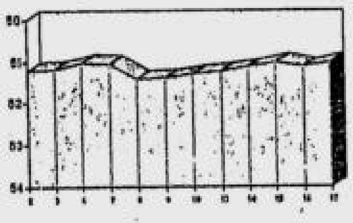
There are over 700 registered commercial pilots in the country, of which over 400 work for PAL, which is owned by tobacco and beer magnate Lucio C. Tan.

Bautista said newer foreign airlines can afford to pay higher salaries for their pilots because they don't bother

PAL/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MARCH

P 51.04 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 17, 2006

¥ 116.68 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 17, 2006

GOLD: $551.10-551.60
per ounce Hong Kong, March 16, 2006

Shares up 0.39%

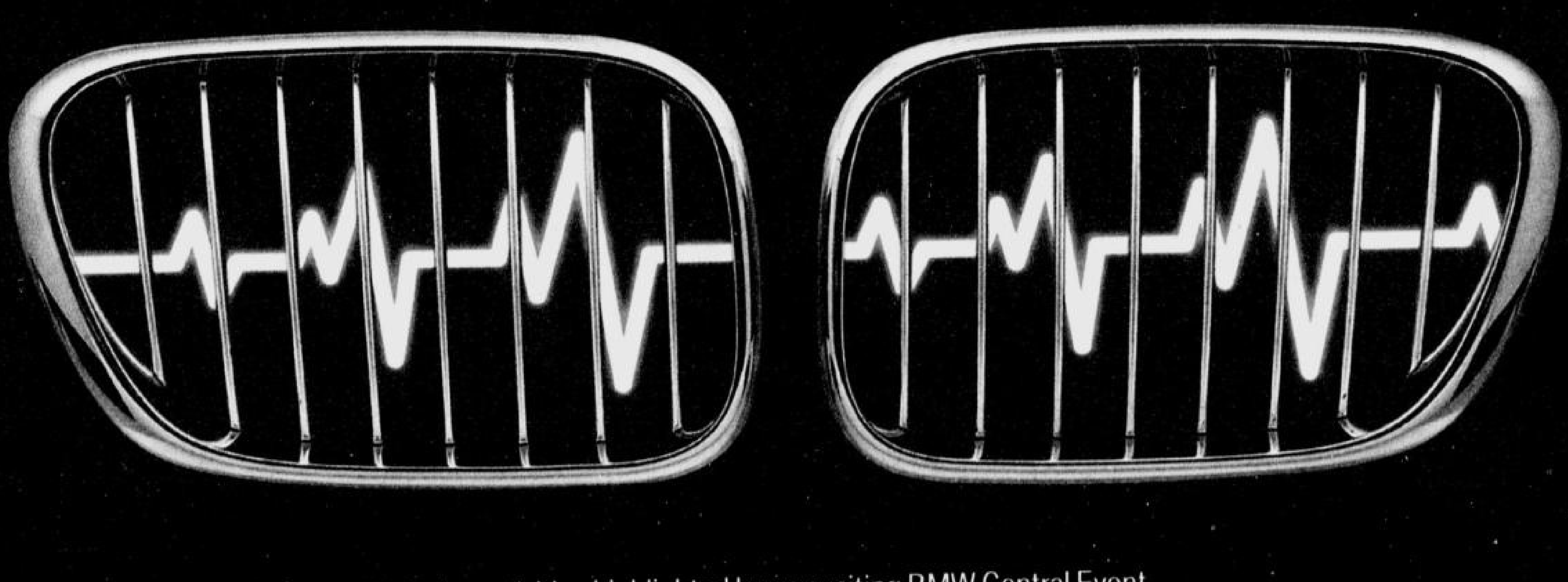
SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.39 percent higher, hitting their highest level in six weeks as investors bought bank stocks amid an improved outlook for the sector, dealers said. However, the financial sector was the only one to see significant interest, with trading reported to be light elsewhere in the market.

The composite index added 8.40 points to 2,150.17 after trading between

SHARES/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mindanao to get $50M in assistance /B4
Vehicle firm program promotes entrepreneurship /B5


BMW Philippines
Xpo 2006
www.bmw.com.ph
BMW
Sheer Driving Pleasure

Adrenaline Rush.
The BMW Xpo Month.

Announcing a series of BMW dealer activities highlighted by an exciting BMW Central Event.

BMW Xpo 2006

BMW Xpo Month Activities
March 1 to 31, 2006
All authorized BMW Dealerships
- 50% downpayment, 0% interest for 24 months on selected BMW models.
- 10% downpayment, 7 years financing on all BMW models.
- Chance to win 1 year worth of fuel from Petron for every BMW purchase.
- Individual dealer activities.

BMW Xpo Central Event Activities
March 17 to 19, 2006
BMW Pavilion, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
- New model introductions.
- Chance to win a brand new BMW X3 for every test drive.
- Surprise gifts for BMW Xpo Central Event visitors.

Event Partners:
Drive your Dream
Petron Blaze
Santé
Samsonite

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 6380734 • Fax (02) 4380419 • Prestige Cars BMW 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel.(02) 8928127 to 29 • Fax (02) 8167325 • Autozentrum BMW Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. (02) 7726021 to 24 • Fax (02) 772 6025 • Klassik BMW 20 C. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel (02) 7816688 • Fax (02) 7314433 • Premier Cars BMW CGIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 9637777 • Fax (045) 9633355 • Performance Auto BMW Magallanes St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel (032) 2563491 • Fax (032) 2563492

Monster in raw

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AND THE LATEST PUBLIC SURVEY said that more and more people nowadays "distrust" this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

To think that our dear propagandists at the Palace are trying their best to make her appear even cuter, through more public appearances with full media coverage.

Now if, despite her determined effort to appear "cute," the survey still say that people distrust her just the same, perhaps her PR line of attack is not working.

And the wonder of it all is that Gloriaetta and her handlers—i.e., all those hangers-on in the Palace—insist on following the same ineffective formula.

Why can't our leader, for once, just do what must be done, forget about popularity and all that s..t, and let the people see the tangible results of her hard work instead?

At the end of the day, nobody can fool the public. Popularity, really, is not a media game. It grows from the actual results of government policies and action.

For one, the business community has been begging this cute administration to do something about Napocor. You know, that dilly-dallying on the privatization program.

Napocor is lagging behind—and quite miserably—in the legislated schedule concerning the sale of its power plants. It even lied to Congress about the privatization progress.

Time and again, able and willing investors air their frustration over this monster called Napocor, only to be to given the cold shoulder by Malacañang.

Of course Gloriaetta and her boys are busy trying to appear cuter. Meantime, big-time kickbacks and grandscale corruption go on in Napocor.

It's hard to earn public trust and business confidence that way.

* * *

Through years of perceived corruption involving billions of pesos, Napocor acquired the distinction of having the second most costly electricity rate in Asia.

Well, at least we are somewhere there at the top of something.

It seems to the business community that Napocor—or to be more precise, the "mafia" in Napocor—wants to keep it that way.

Take the coal power plant in Calaca, Batangas, which was supposed to have been privatized by now.

Napocor still does not hold the land title for the site of the plant. Can you believe that? Here's more: Napocor has been working on the land title for the past 10 years.

Will somebody please tell me how on earth can anyone sell something which does not belong to him legally. And don't tell me Napocor does not know that!

Why does Napocor seem to delay the privatization program on purpose?

One explanation in business is Napocor's stranglehold on the importation of fuel for all the power plants in the country—whether coal, bunker or diesel.

Napocor, you see, enjoys tax-free privileges, which private power plants do not have. That's three percent off the import cost right away.

It is widely known in business therefore that fuel importation is one of the biggest rackets of the Napocor "mafia," whose members by the way are still active.

Importation of fuel for power plants is estimated at $300 million a year. At the usual kickback rate of 10 percent, that's $30 million. It's about P1.5 billion a year. Nice sideline for the "mafia." Of course we, the public, get the raw end of the deal.

So why will the Napocor "mafia" sell the power plants if they will lose a fortune?

* * *

At the same time, what makes the Napocor "mafia" sideline sustainable is another raw deal in which Napocor transferred P200 billion of its debts to the national government.

That even inspired Napocor president Cyril del Callar to announce the good news that Napocor broke even last year. Without doing anything, actually!

Here's how it happened: The national government issued bonds. Out of the proceeds, it then bought Napocor's own bonds. After some time, the national government wrote off the Napocor bonds.

The Commission on Audit commented that it would have been cheaper for the government if it just gave the money directly to Napocor.

For one, why would anybody "invest" in Napocor bonds. It has been bleeding. No sane person would ever buy its bonds. Only our government would.

And that was actually all part of the racket. Through the circuitous route, our government paid for commissions, legal fees and consultancy fees.

In uncovering the deal, COA noted that the government paid some P615 million in "expenses" for the bond flotation. Remember, the "financial advisers" for such a flotation normally get three to five percent of the entire amount of the bonds.

Goodness, this is better than jueteng. And it's legal.

And so who makes money? Why, some people at the Department of Finance, of course! And surely the Napocor "mafia!"

So why can't this cute administration just do its job and get rid of this raw-deal monster called Napocor? Don't tell me somebody in the Palace is also into the racket!

Budget . . .

From page B1

The BOC and BTr likewise exceeded their collection targets by P1.2 billion and P4.9 billion, respectively. The BOC's collections rose by 29.2 percent, while BTr's figure contracted by a marginal 1.5 percent versus a year ago.

For February alone, revenue collections of the BIR and BOC jumped by 31.7 percent and 36.6 percent from a year ago, hitting P41.7 billion and P12.6 billion, respectively.

Starting Feb. 1, the government raised the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent, the single fiscal reform deemed as necessary to stabilize state finances, although full revenue impact is not expected until April.

The BTr, on the other hand, posted a hefty 78.2 percent rise in February collections from last year, reaching P6.7 billion.

For February, government spending amounted to P89.2 billion, 23.5 percent higher than the figure spent in the same month last year. The government also spent P4.1 billion in excess of its expenditure ceiling.

Government expenditures during the first two months reached P177.3 billion, rising by 15.8 percent versus the comparable period in 2005. It overshot the ceiling by P1.4 billion.

Excluding funds used for interest payments, the DOF said the government's primary surplus for February would have amounted to P11.8 billion or much higher than the level last year.

Cumulatively, the two-month primary surplus amounted to P28.3 billion or 69 percent better than a year ago.

Market analysts welcomed the government's better-than-expected budget deficit—the single economic indicator that will affect the country's sovereign credit.

PAL to pay . . .

From page B1

to invest in crew training. Instead, they prefer to pirate the airmen at higher wages using the funds that would have otherwise been spent to train their own pilots.

"Unlike us, we train our own pilots," he said, pointing out that, on the average, PAL spends P14 million per pilot on various semi-annual training programs over the 10 years it takes to graduate from a second officer in a narrow-body jet to a full captain in a wide-body jet.

Over the longer term, however, he said more lasting solutions would have to be put in place, like training more pilots to ensure the steady supply of trained crew that will man PAL's expanding fleet of aircraft.

More pilots will be needed to man the estimated 30,000 airliners that Boeing and Airbus will sell to carriers around the world over the next 10 years.

"We produce between 24 and 28 pilots from our flying school each year, and we plan to increase that," he said, pointing out that the airline had recently increased the number of its Cessna primary trainer aircraft from five to ten units.

Shares up . . .

From page B1

2,141.77 and 2,157.00.

This is the best closing level since Feb. 2, when the composite index finished at 2,159.37.

The broader all-shares index was down 2.09 points to 1,037.98.

Gainers outnumbered losers 52 to 30, while 54 stocks were unchanged.

Volume reached 630.16 million shares worth P641.05 million ($12.55 million).

The peso traded at 51.08 to the dollar by midday.

Bank of the Philippine Islands led gainers by adding a peso to P62.

Its rival Metropolitan Bank and Trust also advanced by a peso to P37.50. Equitable PCI Bank gained P1.50 to P74.50.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone retreated P5 to P1,825, while rival Globe Telecom gained P10 to P875.

AFP

TOSHIBA

Toshiba recommends Windows® XP Professional.

The smartest entertainer with TV, stereo audio, HDD/DVD recorder and PC.

VISIT US
Glorietta Activity Center,
Ayala Center Makati City
17 Mar - 2 Apr 2006

Qosmio
AV Notebook PC

Introducing Qosmio, the revolutionary 4-in-1 AV Notebook PC. The built-in TV Tuner lets you enjoy your favorite TV programs, with stunning images of up to 600NIT delivered by Clear SuperView display technology. Plus, harman/kardon® stereo speakers, HDD record-and-play capabilities and wireless computing powered by Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology. Mobile entertainment never looked or sounded so good!

Superlative Audio
15dB more powerful sound with 30mm harman/kardon® speakers and 500Hz to 250Hz stronger bass.

QosmioPlayer
Allows you to enjoy TV, DVDs and audio CDs at the touch of a button, without waiting for your system to boot up.

QosmioEngine
Delivers cinematic DVD and video images plus enhanced 3D graphics seamlessly.

DVD SuperMulti Drive
A DVD powerhouse with Double Layer DVD recording technology that lets you read and write to all CD-ROM and DVD-ROM formats, twice as fast.

NEW
Qosmio F20-P540
Model No: PQF20L-00L00H
Portable widescreen AV entertainer.

- Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 750 (1.86GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 533MHz FSB)
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG Network Connection 802.11b/g
  - Intel® 915PM Express Chipset
- Genuine Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Tool
- 450NIT (2 lamps) (15.4") 39.4cm WXGA Clear SuperView TFT display
- 1GB DDR2 SDRAM (after upgrade)
- 80GB HDD with shock absorber
- **DVD SuperMulti Double Layer Drive (DVD±RW/RAM)**
- NVIDIA® GeForce™ Go6600 with 128MB VRAM
- 5-in-1 card reader, 3 x USB 2.0, IEEE 1394 ports
- 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

12 months 0% interest installments

P10,415.83 monthly
SRP: P124,990

*0% interest valid provided monthly bills are paid in full, subject to bank approval. Only through BPI credit cards.

NEW
Qosmio G20-P640
Model No: PQG20L-10E003
The 1st AV Notebook PC with RAID Technology.

- Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology
  - Intel® Pentium® M Processor 760 (2GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 533MHz FSB)
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG Network Connection 802.11b/g
  - Intel® 915PM Express Chipset
- Genuine Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Tool
- 500NIT (2 lamps) (17.0") 43.5cm WXGA Clear SuperView TFT display
- Toshiba software RAID Technology (RAID-1 support)
- 1GB DDR2 SDRAM (after upgrade)
- 160GB (80+80GB) HDD with RAID-0 support
- **DVD SuperMulti Double Layer Drive (DVD±RW/RAM)**
- NVIDIA® GeForce™ Go6600 with 128MB VRAM
- Integrated Bluetooth™
- 5-in-1 card reader, 4x USB 2.0, IEEE 1394 ports
- 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

512 MB RAM

P189,990

Per DTI-NCR Permit #1773, series of 2006. Promotion period is only till 2 April 2006.

Talk-2-Toshiba
www.pc.toshiba-asia.com/hotline
A 24/7 toll-free call-back service for warranty and technical support OR call us at +65 6744 7717

Toshiba Mobile Computing Partner:
Tricom Dynamics, Inc www.tricom.com.ph
MAKATI Metro House Bldg., 345 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Tel: 890-6525 to 32 Fax: 890-0698

Shop Toshiba
Complink: Cyberzone, SM City North Edsa North Avenue corner EDSA, Quezon City; Tel: 920-9140
Electroworld: Park Square 1, Ayala Center Makati; Tel: 812-3880
Silicon Valley: 4/F SM Manila, Arroceros St. Manila; Tel: 525-3218/ 400-4678

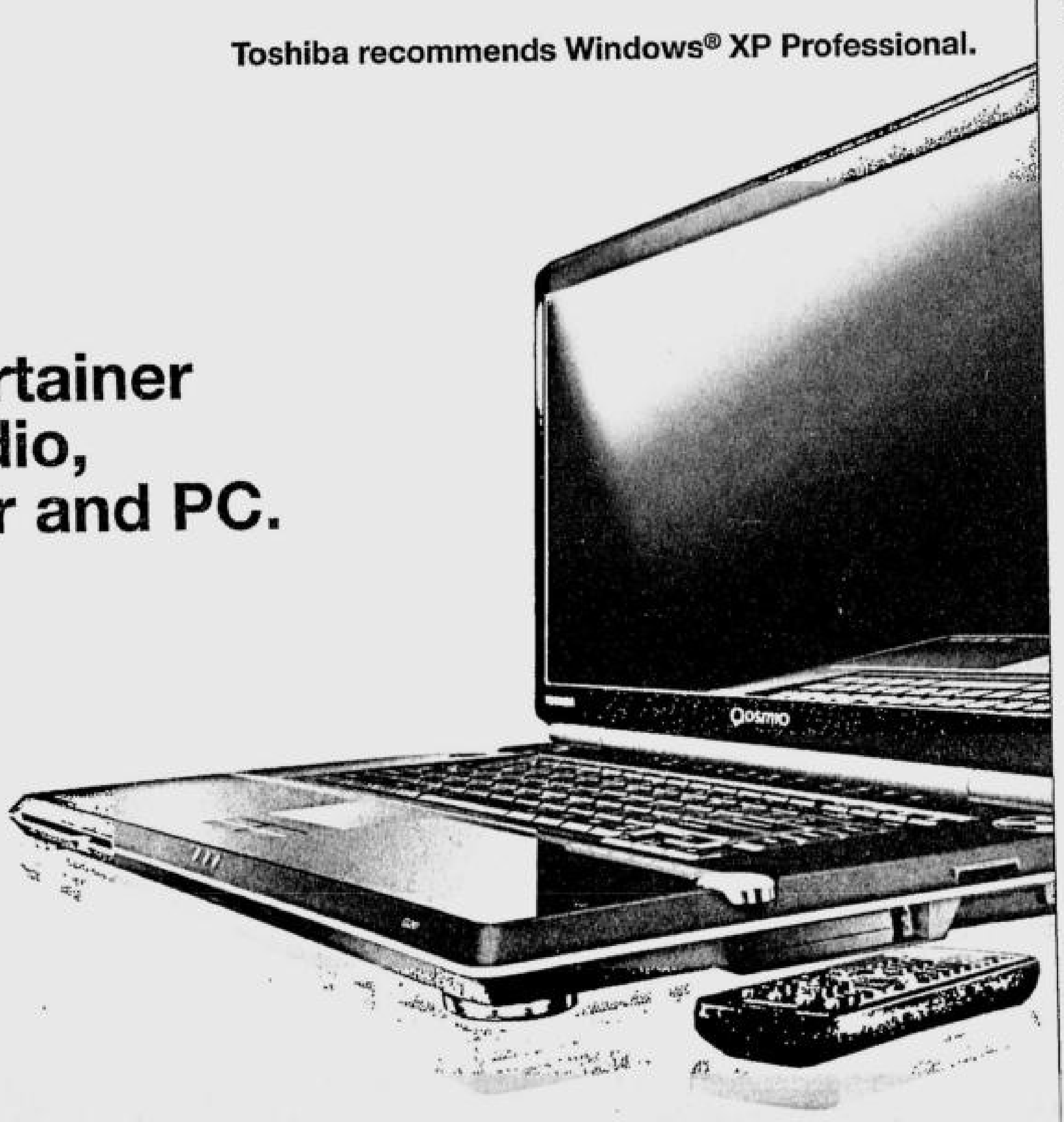
Toshiba iShops:
Silicon Valley 3/F Alabang Town Center, Alabang Muntinlupa City; Tel: 807-8987
Abenson-Avant 2/F Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center Makati City; Tel: 758-2315 to 17
Octagon Computer Superstore 4/F Mega B Bldg Megamall Edsa Ortigas Center Tel: 633-9318

Authorized Retail Dealers:
COMPLINK MARKETING, INC. • SM MEGAMALL 6373988; 6316958 • ROBINSON'S GALLERIA: 6320896 to 97; 6387048 • PARK SQUARE 1: 8931489; 8931491; 8931493 • SM NORTH EDSA: 9280140 to 41, 9292857 • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA: 6374444 to 46 E-Hub 893-1491, 893-1489, 893-1490 • SM SOUTHMALL 8019908 • SM BACOOR (046) 4177781 to 83 • CITIMALL: 6129706 to 09 • E HUB Alabang Town Center 7752140 to 45 • **SILICON VALLEY** • ALABANG TOWN CENTER 8078087 • PARK SQUARE 1 8126734 • SM MANILA 5253218 • SM MEGAMALL 6331724 • SM BICUTAN 8229751 to 61 • STA. LUCIA 6466538 • SM SOUTHMALL 8009665 • SM NORTH EDSA 9275831 • HARRISON PLAZA 5257731 • SM BACOOR (46)4177881 • SM PAMPANGA (45)9612225 • SM NORTH •**ELECTROWORLD** HEAD OFFICE 7472054, 7472058 • SM MANILA 5248310; 5247980 • BINONDO 2420490; 2423572 • GREENBELT 8126815, 8920120 • ABENSON-CAINTA 6815301 • SM NORTH EDSA 9279675, 9240014 • ABENSON WALTERMART QUEZON CITY 4150729 • SM FAIRVIEW 4186084, 4186081 • NEW FARMERS PLAZA 9111494, 9111099 9111785 • SM MEGAMALL 6331624 to 25, 6320535 • SM BICUTAN 8229014 to 15 • ABENSON SHANGRI-LA 6388010, 6381719 • PARK SQUARE 1: 8132776, 8123880, 8123868 • WALTERMART MAKATI 8920119, 8440596 • ABENSON QUAD 8940951 • SM SOUTHMALL 8000408 or 04 • ALABANG 8500682, 8508708 • ALABANG TOWN CENTER 7723258. **OCTAGON COMPUTER SUPERSTORE** • SM MEGAMALL 6339316, 6350090 • PARK SQUARE 1: 8071704 • ROBINSON'S PLACE 5242510 • SM CITY 9209141 • VIRRAMALL 7212143 • STA LUCIA GRANDMALL 6817374 • PACO 3360761 • SM CAVITE (046)4171836 • ALIMALL 4219902, • FESTIVAL MALL 8095475 8093733; • SM Southmall 8015130, 8015135 PROVINCIAL BRANCHES: • OCTAGON COLUMBIA COMPUTER STORE Baguio (074)4447570 • CEBU (032)2317364 • ILOILO (033)3209140 • BACOLOD (034)4323065 • DAGUPAN (075)5158662 • DUMAGUETE (035)4221391 • PALAWAN (048)4347092 • ZAMBOANGA (062)9921651

© 2006 Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd. Computer Systems Division (South and Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters). Celeron, Celeron Inside, Centrino, Centrino Logo, Intel, Intel Logo, Intel Inside, Intel Inside Logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Microsoft, Windows and OneNote are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries. All other products and names mentioned are the property of their respective owners. Availability and configurations may vary by country. Battery has a 1 Year carry in International Limited Warranty. Toshiba has made every effort at the time of the press announcement to ensure the accuracy of the information provided herein. Toshiba will not be liable for editorial, pictorial, and typographical errors. For online warranty registration, please visit www.pc.toshiba-asia.com/registeronline. RCB No. [illegible]

centrino
MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

Qosmio
Choose freedom.
www.pc.toshiba-asia.com



Bahrain-Clark flights seen boosting activity at Clark int'l airport

CLARK SPECIAL Economic Zone—The Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here is seen becoming a vital entry point for Europeans coming to Asia with the additional flights given to Gulf Air, Bahrain's flag carrier.

"Gulf Air, being a large Middle Eastern full service international airline with flights to Europe and US, opens numerous possibilities for our overseas Filipino workers to now make Clark their airport as well as bring foreign tourists to come to the country via DMIA," said Victor Jose Luciano, executive vice president of the Clark Development Corp.

The recently-concluded air talks here entitled Gulf Air to two more flights a week, bringing total entitlements to four, Luciano said.

Gulf Air, he added, could "potentially fly to Clark on seven frequencies weekly on their Bahrain-Clark and vice versa route."

Philippine Airlines, however, earlier expressed concern over the Gulf Air flights.

"Gulf Air's first priority is to fly to Manila. If they do not secure the Manila rights, they may consider flying Clark as an alternative. If they do so, they will have to invest in the route to develop Clark which is good for Clark. But if they get Manila, then it's surely 'Goodbye Clark,'" PAL said in a statement. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cable TV costs rising

BAGUIO CITY—THE strengthening peso has increased the cost of subscribing to cable television in Northern Luzon, with a major cable provider raising subscription fees by as much as 15 percent in the summer capital alone.

Allan Fernandez, spokesperson for Skycable Inc. here, said dollar transactions with overseas cable channels like Home Box Office (HBO) have become too high.

He said firms in Naga City, Ilocos Sur and Pangasinan have also raised their fees since January.

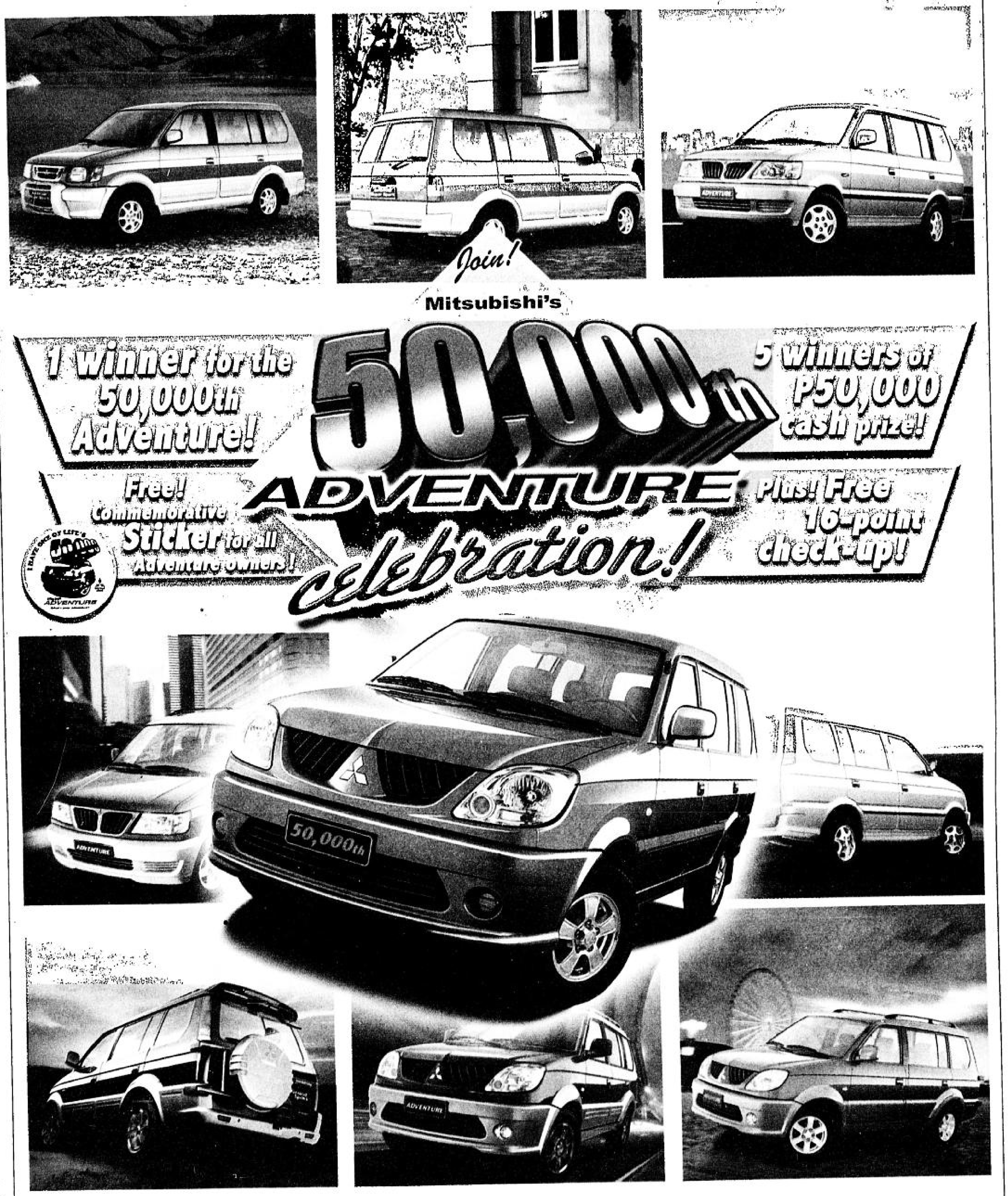
Skycable Baguio's P75 increase for monthly subscriptions, is the highest among provincial cable networks because it has the most subscribers in northern Luzon.

Fernandez said over 14,000 households were hooked to Skycable, which is operated here by Pilipino Cable Co., the country's first cable television facility.

"Our foreign providers charge according to volume. HBO, for example, charges $2 per subscriber, and Baguio has most of them," he said.

All cable firms in the provinces will have to adjust to the cost, he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mitsubishi Adventure Owners Celebrate!


Join!
Mitsubishi's
1 winner for the 50,000th Adventure!
50,000th
5 winners of P50,000 cash prize!
Free! Commemorative Sticker for all Adventure owners!
ADVENTURE
celebration!
Plus! Free 16-point check-up!
ADVENTURE
50,000th

We are giving away the 50,000th Adventure unit, absolutely free! Open to all Adventure owners: simply register and qualify by taking advantage of the free 16-point check-up; or by availing of an Adventure through our Easy-Own Plans.

It's our way of thanking you for your continued patronage.
Join the celebration now!

MITSUBISHI EASY OWN PLANS

Low Downpayment Plans

Model	SRP	Low D/P	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
Adventure GX Diesel	690,000	68,500	28,702	20,454	16,369	14,091
Adventure GLX Gas	733,000	89,950	30,491	21,729	17,389	14,969
Adventure GLX Diesel	763,000	66,450	31,739	22,618	18,100	15,582
Adventure GLS Sport Gas M/T	830,000	84,500	34,526	24,604	19,690	16,950
Adventure GLS Sport Gas A/T	883,000	112,450	36,731	26,175	20,947	18,032
Adventure GLS Sport Diesel (789 sealer)	830,000	79,500	34,526	24,604	19,690	16,950
Adventure Super Sport Diesel Std.	871,000	120,650	36,231	25,820	20,662	17,787

Low Monthly Plans

50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
345,000	**28,750**	**19,167**	15,252	10,869	8,698	7,488
366,500	**30,542**	21,291	17,004	12,117	9,697	8,348
381,500	**31,792**	**21,194**	15,896	11,711	9,371	8,067
415,000	**34,583**	**23,056**	18,445	13,145	10,519	9,055
441,500	37,833	25,894	20,674	14,733	11,790	10,150
415,000	**34,583**	**23,056**	**17,292**	12,978	10,386	8,941
435,500	38,174	26,127	20,847	14,856	11,889	10,234

**Figures in bold represent zero interest plans.*
All plans subject to bank approval.

Promo runs from March 16 to May 31, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1340. Series of 2006.

See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!

METRO MANILA: CITIMOTORS, INC.-Makati (Main) - Tel. Nos.: 892-0331 to 42 CITIMOTORS, INC. - Las Piñas - Tel. Nos. 875-1545 / 875-1704 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Greenhills (Main) - Tel. Nos.: 727-0351 to 90 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Quezon Ave. Tel. Nos.: 372-3901 to 15 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Marcos Highway - Tel. Nos.: 645-4801 to 05 DIAMOND MOTOR - Fairview Tel. Nos.: 935-3731, 418-2946 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Valle Verde - Tel. Nos.: 671-9590 to 94 MITSUBISHI MOTORS BALINTAWAK - Tels. 330-7574/6901 to 05 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Paco (Main) - Tel. Nos.: 563-8461 to 65 / 563-8461 to 67 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Kalookan - Tel. Nos.: 364-2061 to 69 LUZON DEALERS AMCAR AUTOMOTIVE CORP.- Sta. Rosa, Laguna - Tel. Nos.: (049) 541-1259 / (02) 420-8057 CALEB MOTOR CORP. - Naga City Tel. (054) 811-6119 CARWORLD, INC. - Pampanga (Main) Tel. Nos.: (045) 963-1111 CARWORLD, INC. - Malolos Tel. Nos.: (044) 791-6320 / 791-2405 to 06 CARWORLD, INC. - Marilao Tel. Nos.: (044) 711-2895 to 97 CARWORLD, INC. - Olongapo Tel. Nos.: (047) 222-3743 / 224-4307 CARWORLD, INC. - Tarlac Tel. Nos.: (0452) 982-5551 to 53 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF BALIUAG CORP. - Baliuag Tel. Nos.: (044) 673-4083 / 766-4236 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF CABANATUAN CORP. - Cabanatuan (Main) Tel. Nos.: (044) 463-1391 / 463-5105 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES - Isabela Tel. (078) 682-8401 JABEZ MOTOR CORP. - Dasmariñas Cavite Tel. Nos.: (046) 416-5968 / 850-0119 / 416-6960 / 850-1681 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Calasiao (Main) Tel. Nos.: (075) 517-3060 / 517-6228 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Baguio City Tel. Nos.: (074) 300-3571 / 619-1023 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - La Union Tel. Nos.: (072) 705-5050 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Urdaneta Tel. Nos.: (075) 568-2502 SFM SALES CORP. - San Pablo (Main) Tel. Nos.: (049) 562-0690 to 91 / 562-8569 SFM SALES CORP. - Lipa Tel. No.: (043) 756-1018 VISAYAS DEALERS. AVESCOR MOTORS - Iloilo Tel. Nos.: (033) 337-4455 / 337-6486 / 337-6487 AVESCOR MOTORS - Bacolod Tel. Nos.: (034) 435-2111 to 14 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. (Main) Tel. Nos.: (032) 345-1233 / 420-5777 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Dumaguete Tel. Nos.: (035) 225-1427 to 29 / 225-6925 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Tacloban Tel. Nos.: (053) 323-2520 / 323-2379 to 80 / 323-3724 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Tagbilaran Tel. Nos.: (038) 411-2661 / 411-5814 to 15 MINDANAO DEALERS: KARASIA, INC. - Davao (Main) Tel. Nos.: (082) 222-1111 to 16 KARASIA, INC. - Davao (South) Tel. Nos.: (082) 298-1490 to 94 / 298-0175 to 77 KARASIA, INC. - Tagum Tel. Nos.: (084) 217-3582 MINDANAO INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. Nos.: (083) 302-0586 to 87 (083) 552-4781 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Butuan Tel. Nos.: (085) 815-3089 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Cagayan de Oro Tel. Nos.: (088) 855-1546 ZAMBOANGA MOTORS, INC. Tel. Nos.: (062) 991-2138 / 993-0786

3 WARRANTY

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

FUJITSU

Trade up to Fujitsu Servers

Trade-in your old PC* and get a new Fujitsu
PRIMERGY *TX150 S2* Server at **P39,900*****
or **P3,325.00 / 12 months****

FUJITSU PRIMERGY TX150 S2
Mono-Processor Tower Server

- 1 x Intel Pentium 4 3.0EGHz / 1MB L2 Cache / 800 MHz FSB
- Intel E7210 Chipset
- 1 x 512MB ECC DDR SDRAM / Maximum: 4GB ECC DDR through 4 DIMM
- Graphic Controller: ATI Rage XL, VRAM:8MB (PCI)
- 1 x 73GB Ultra 320 Hot-swap (PG-HDH71K)
- Number of Bays: 4 (hot-plug) / Maximum: 587.2GB
- Internal Bay 5 inch: 3 (2 free bays)
- CDRW ATAPI Drive
- PCI Slots: 2 (Full Height x 2) PCI-X 64nit/66MHz / 3 (Full Height x 1) PCI 32BIT/33MHz
- SCSI Controller: Ultra320 SCSI x 1 ch
- Internal FDD: 3.5inch (1.44MB/720KB)
- Network Controller (On-board): 1 port (1000 BASE-T/100BASE-TX/10BASE-T) x 1
  Interfaces: CRT (Analog RGB), Serial Port x 2, Parallel Port, Keyboard (PS/2), Mouse (PS/2), USB x 3 (ver. 2.0)
- Server Management Software: ServerView
- Power Supply: AC100V (50/60Hz) / 200V
- Dimension (cm): Pedestal :20.5 (8.0 in) x 60.2 (23.7 in) x 44.4 (17.4 in)

Warranty: 3/3/1 (Parts/Service/On-Site Next Business Day)****
Service Hotline number: 841.84.00
Sales Hotline number: 637.39.88 / 914.03.24

March 17-19, 2006
at Upper Ground flr.,
Building B, SM Megamall

Srp: P79,800
Trade-in Price: P39,900***
or P3,325 / 12 months**

* any PC working or not working, complete or incomplete parts
** all major credit card which applies
*** cash / card price
****for business establishments only. Business papers required. Server must be installed in the same business establishment. Within Metro Manila, Mon-Fri, 8-5pm service ONLY.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0253 Series of 2006

Erratum: Warranty: 3/3/3 to Warranty: 3/3/1

Authorized Dealer:
COMPlink
SM Megamall - 637-3988

SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS

Mindanao to get $50M in assistance

Funding for infra, livelihood projects

By Michelle V. Remo

DAVAO CITY—FOREIGN DONORS LED BY the World Bank are preparing a $50-million assistance package for the development of Mindanao.

They vowed to disburse the amount immediately after the signing of the peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF).

The Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), an attached agency of the Office of the President, said the amount would be used to fund infrastructure projects and livelihood programs that would help boost economic activity in the South and aid in the improvement of the quality of life of the Mindanaoans.

World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg said in a press briefing yesterday that foreign donors that had expressed intention to infuse money into the Mindanao Trust Fund, aside from his office, included the governments of Australia, Sweden and New Zealand, and the European Union.

"We want to unlock the economic and socio-economic potentials of Mindanao and stand ready to mobilize resources," Amsberg told reporters. The donor agencies require the signing of the peace agreement to ensure that the pledges, which will all be in the form of grants, would be used in projects that would help in attaining the government's economic development objectives.

The Mindanao working group, composed of representatives from the Mindanao government and donor agencies, held its third annual convention yesterday. The group tackled the projects and programs that would be prioritized in the disbursement of the foreign assistance.

In the same briefing, presidential adviser on the peace process Jesus Dureza said the peace agreement between the MILF and the Philippine government was expected to be signed before the end of the year. He said the substantial reduction in the number of encounters between the military and MILF fighters was a result of the peace process.

He said that last year, the number of encounters between the two parties was trimmed down to 29 from 48 in 2004 and 280 in 2003.

The insurgency problem in Mindanao was blamed on the poor delivery of basic services, marginalization of indigenous cultural communities, exploitation of ancestral domains, violation of human rights, and massive poverty.

Amsberg said a peace agreement would encourage the flow of investments into Mindanao, while economic development would help in tempering restlessness among insurgents.

For its part, the Asian Development Bank has been showing its support for the socio-economic development of Mindanao through the continued implementation of the Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP), which the multilateral agency is funding through an official development assistance. The MBUSSP, which the ADB approved in 2001, covers various infrastructure development projects and livelihood programs for implementation within the medium term.

New communications systems now affordable to SMEs

By Daxim L. Lucas

SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SCALE ENTERPRISES (SMEs) will soon have access to more affordable communications equipment formerly available only to large firms with huge budgets for information technology systems.

Information technology firm Avaya Inc. has launched a simple "plug-and-play" Internet protocol telephony solution which, it said, would help companies cut costs and complexity while providing quick access to telephony features that only big companies could afford in the past.

In a presentation to reporters, Avaya regional director for Asia-Pacific Rosemary Durand said the new system, called Avaya one-X Quick Edition, will make it easier for small businesses to migrate to Internet protocol (IP) telephony.

"All the software is in the phone, with no need for a communications server or advanced installation skills," she said. "Simply plug the IP phones into the local area network."

The phones automatically "discover" each other, start up their features, and provide back-up for one another. They also give users access to the most commonly used telephony applications, including voice mail, conferencing, and auto-attendant.

Phones for new employees can be added to the system by simply plugging in a new unit.

The new phone is part of Avaya's larger one-X product range which includes software that can be downloaded into any mobile phone that uses a Symbian operating system.

Durand said that a mobile phone converted to the one-X standard will allow its user instant connectivity to most office functions found only at the user's desk.

Among others, the system can also be configured to make one-X mobile phones receive calls forwarded to the user's desk phone extension number, Durand said.

ROUND-UP

Truck ban policy review

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS SECTOR, through the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, have agreed to review existing truck ban rules in certain areas of the country.

PCCI president Donald Dee said the deal was aimed at harmonizing the schedules of truck bans in various areas. The move is hoped to resolve the constraints faced by truckers.

Dee also said that talks had started on policies limiting the capacity of cargoes that trucks were allowed to carry, taking into consideration the condition and standards of the road network and sizes of trucks.

More CEB flights to HK

CEBU PACIFIC will add another frequency to its Manila-Hong Kong route, increasing its flights from 14 to 17 times weekly, starting April 3, 2006.

The additional service is scheduled to operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Manila-Hong Kong flight departs at 7:25 p.m. while the Hong Kong-Manila flight leaves at 10:10 p.m. "Go" fares for Hong Kong start at P1,999 one way and are available year-round.

The airline opened its first regional office in Kowloon, Hong Kong in October 2005 to facilitate ticket sales and function as a customer service desk for the large OFW market in Hong Kong.

Cash management solutions

LAWRENCE Webb, HSBC's head of payments and cash management for Asia-Pacific, was recently in Manila to launch the 2006 edition of HSBC's Guide to Cash and Treasury Management Asia-Pacific, an annual reference for corporate treasurers and finance executives in the region. This year's guide features case studies written by different bankers and treasurers providing up-to-date information on banking systems, technology and cash management practices across 17 countries and territories in Asia, including the Philippines.

PNB
ASSET MANAGEMENT SECTOR
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION
MARCH 23, 2006 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • BUSINESS INN, Hall A No. 28 South Lacson St., Bacolod City 6100, Negros Occidental

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

BACOLOD

LOT 1 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 500 & 500 = 1,000 sqm.
FA: 554sqm.
Lot 282 & 274, 26Th & 27Th Sts., Cor. Calamba St., Brgy. 1
Minimum Bid Price : 3,364,000.00

LOT 2 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 250 sqm. FA: 48sqm.
Lot 12-A Blk 8 Phase V, Mt. Sinai St., Mountainview Subd., Brgy. Mandalagan
Minimum Bid Price : 618,300.00

LOT 3 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 240 sqm. FA: 100sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 7 C. Jayme Avenue, Brgy. Mansilingan
Minimum Bid Price : 355,000.00

LOT 4 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 227sqm. FA: 92 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 24 No. 24-12 Victoria St., Eroreco Subd., Mandalagan
Minimum Bid Price : 539,200.00

LOT 5 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 216 sqm. FA: 120sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 16 Margarita Ave., Eroreco Subd., Brgy.Mandalagan
Minimum Bid Price : 583,200.00

LOT 6 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 957sqm. FA: 400 sqm.
Lot 609-B San Juan St., Sum-Ag
Minimum Bid Price : 2,425,500.00

LOT 7 - Lot Only
LA: 200sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 1 Japitana Subd., Purok Sunriser, Brgy Mandalagan
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00

LOT 8 - Lot Only
LA: 933 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk. 8 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd.,Phase 1,Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 2,379,150.00

LOT 9 - Lot Only
LA: 933sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 8 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 2,379,150.00

LOT 10 - Lot Only
LA: 851sqm.
Lot 16 Blk. 8 San Sebastian Ave., Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 1,914,750.00

LOT 11 - Lot Only
LA: 938sqm.
Lot 17 Blk. 8 San Sebastian Ave., Sta. Clara Subd.,Phase 1 Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 2,110,500.00

LOT 12 - Lot Only
LA: 2,479sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 2 San Ignacio Ave, Sta. Clara Subd.,Phase1,Brgy.Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 5,577,750.00

LOT 13 - Lot Only
LA: 2,329sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 2 Subd. Road, Sta. Clara Subd.,Phase1,Brgy.Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 5,240,250.00

LOT 14 - Lot Only
LA: 1,107sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 39 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 2,490,750.00

LOT 15 - Agriland
LA: 1,628sqm.
Lot 1-B Blk 1 Circumferential Road, Sta. Clara Subd., Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 4,884,000.00

LOT 16 - Lot with Makeshift Improvement
LA: 1,310 sqm.
Lot 610, San Roque St Sum-Ag
Minimum Bid Price : 589,500.00

LOT 17 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 8,394 sqm.
Lot 663 Int. Portion Of Purok Kaingin, Brgy. Punta Taytay
Minimum Bid Price : 1,511,250.00

LOT 18 - Lot with Makeshift Improvement
LA: 225 sqm.
Lot 15-A, Blk 24, Purok Mahimayaon, Brgy. Bata.
Minimum Bid Price : 160,000.00

LOT 19 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 360 + 360 = 720sqm.
FA: 1,334sqm.
Lot 406-B-26 & 29, 13Th St., Brgy. 4
Minimum Bid Price : 5,453,500.00

LOT 20 - Lot Only
LA: 510sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 1 Alijis Murcia Rd. & 101 St., Greenplains Subd., Singcang
Minimum Bid Price : 969,000.00

LOT 21 - Lot Only
LA: 510sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 1 Alijis Murcia Road & 101 St.,Greenplains Subd.,Singcang
Minimum Bid Price : 969,000.00

LOT 22 - Lot Only
LA: 510sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 1 Alijis Murcia Road & 101 St.,Greenplains Subd.,Singcang
Minimum Bid Price : 1,453,500.00

LOT 23 - Lot Only
LA: 510sqm.
Lot 27 Blk 1 Alijis Murcia Road & 101 St.,Greenplains Subd.,Singcang
Minimum Bid Price : 1,453,500.00

LOT 24 - Lot with fully depreciated improvement
LA: 1,065sqm.
Lot 31 Alunan Ave., Brgy. 39 Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price : 3,727,500.00

LOT 25 - Lot with fully depreciated improvement
LA: 1,062sqm.
Lot 43 Osmeña Ave., Brgy. 39 Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price : 2,230,200.00

LOT 26 - Agriland
LA: 2,243sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 1 Circumferential Road, Sta. Clara Subd., Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 6,280,400.00

LOT 27 - Agriland
LA: 1,937sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 6 Circumferential Road, Sta. Clara Subd., Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 5,423,600.00

LOT 28 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 29 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 30 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 31 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 32 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 33 - Lot Only
LA. 240sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price . 524,400.00

LOT 34 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 35 - Lot Only
LA: 760sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 14 San Fernando Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 1,398,400.00

LOT 36 - Lot Only
LA: 760sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 14 San Fernando Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 1,398,400.00

LOT 37 - Lot Only
LA: 760sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 14 San Fernando Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 1,398,400.00

LOT 38 - Lot Only
LA: 1,038sqm.
Lot 37 Blk 5 Amelia St., Villa Valderrama Subd., Brgy. Bata
Minimum Bid Price : 1,670,900.00

LOT 39 - Lot Only
LA: 1,065sqm.
Lot 38 Blk 5 Paquita St., Villa Valderrama Subd., Brgy. Bata
Minimum Bid Price : 1,715,000.00

LOT 40 - Lot Only
LA: 1,039sqm.
Lot 39 Blk 5 Amelia St., Villa Valderrama Subd., Brgy. Bata
Minimum Bid Price : 1,673,000.00

LOT 41 - Lot Only
LA: 300+300= 600sqm.
Lot 8 & 10, Blk 8, Purok Sampaguita III, Brgy. Singcang-Airport
Minimum Bid Price : 144,000.00

BAGO

LOT 42 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 10,000 sqm. FA: 900 sqm.
Lot 14-A Bago-Ma-Ao Road, Brgy Lag-Asan
Minimum Bid Price : 4,326,500.00

LOT 43 - Lot Only
LA: 300 + 300 + 300 + 301 = 1,201sqm.
Lots 912-B-2-D, 912-B-2-E, 912-B-2-F & 912-B-2-G Sitio Para, Brgy. Taloc
Minimum Bid Price : 180,000.00

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA: 1,236sqm.
Lot 131 Sitio Limbo, Brgy. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 36,750.00

LOT 45 - Lot Only
LA: 725sqm.
Lot 216-A--5-H, Purok Balinghoy
Minimum Bid Price : 203,000.00

LOT 46 - Lot Only
LA: 1,000sqm.
Lot 216-A--5-A, Purok Balinghoy
Minimum Bid Price : 320,000.00

BINALBAGAN

LOT 47 - VACANT LOT, AGRILAND
LA: 214,690sqm.
Lot 166 Sina-Ilan - Cabila, Biao
Minimum Bid Price : 644,250.00

CADIZ

LOT 48 - Lot Only
LA: 200, 200, 200 = 600 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 4; Lot 3 Blk. 4; Lot 4 Blk. 4 Purok Democracia, Brgy. Jerusalem
Minimum Bid Price : 76,500.00

LOT 49 - Agriland
LA: 251sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 28 Road Lot 27, Andrea Village, Zone II, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 70,000.00

HINOBA-AN

LOT 50 - Lot Only
LA: 2,279sqm.
3954-B-6-B Brgy. 2, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 204,000.00

ILOG

LOT 51 - Lot with Makeshift Improvement
LA: 518sqm.
Lot 2258 Mabini St., Dancalan
Minimum Bid Price : 349,650.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA:24,324+15,095+10,120= 49,539sqm.
Lot 670, 1341, 1334 Brgy. Manalad
Minimum Bid Price : 659,300.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA: 87,556sqm.
Lot 1742 Samberal, Brgy. Delicioso
Minimum Bid Price : 893,071.20

LOT 54 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA: 48,443sqm.
Lot 1446 Bagroy, Brgy. Delicioso
Minimum Bid Price : 552,250.20

KABANKALAN

LOT 55 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 500sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 7 Granada St., Brgy. 3
Minimum Bid Price : 540,000.00

LOT 56 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 500sqm.
Lot 22 Blk. 7 Sola St., Brgy 3
Minimum Bid Price : 540,000.00

LOT 57 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 592sqm.
Lot 23 Blk. 7 Sola St., Brgy. 3
Minimum Bid Price : 639,360.00

LOT 58 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 999.50 sqm. FA: 164sqm.
Lot 154-A-2 Burgos St., Brgy. 8
Minimum Bid Price 964,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA: 90,015sqm.
Lot 2955 Candiacap-B.Brgy. Tapi
Minimum Bid Price : 688,500.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA: 157,482sqm.
Lot 2746 Plasanon 1,Brgy.Salong
Minimum Bid Price 1,204,450.00

LA CASTELLANA

LOT 61 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 700sqm. FA: 159sqm.
Lot 635-A Purok Sampaloc, GomezSt.
Minimum Bid Price : 633,600.00

MANAPLA

LOT 62 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 410sqm. FA: 86sqm.
Lot 91-B-5-G-1 Int. Gallo St.
Minimum Bid Price : 396,800.00

LOT 63 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 973sqm. FA: 148sqm.
Lot No. 186-F-5 Bangga Tuling, Int. Lacson St.
Minimum Bid Price : 584,800.00

LOT 64 - Lot Only
LA: 335sqm.
Lot 91-B-5-E Interior Gallo St.
Minimum Bid Price 142,800.00

SAGAY

LOT 65 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 300sqm. FA: 135sqm.
Lot 19-I-5-A A.E. Maranon St.
Minimum Bid Price : 599,400.00

LOT 66 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 201sqm. FA: 70sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 3 Osterhols Shamibeck Corner Mozart Sts., City Heights Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 279,900.00

LOT 67 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 240sqm. FA: 100sqm.
Lot 10, Blk 46 Tupaz St., Extension, Poblacion 1
Minimum Bid Price : 443,200.00

LOT 68 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 240sqm. FA: 80sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 43 Tupaz St., Aguilar Subd.
Minimum Bid Price . 486,400.00

LOT 69 - Agriland
LA: 500sqm.
Lot 14 Purok Lerio, Brgy. Vito
Minimum Bid Price . 31,500.00

LOT 70 - Agriland
LA: 500sqm.
Lot 9 Purok Lerio, Brgy. Vito
Minimum Bid Price 31,500.00

SAN CARLOS

LOT 71 - VACANT LOT, AGRILAND
LA: 106,591sqm.
Lot 650, 639 Sitio Naguiman, Brgy. Prosperidad
Minimum Bid Price 96,750.00

SILAY

LOT 72 - Lot Only
LA: 3,211sqm.
Lot 10-F Banana St., Brgy V
Minimum Bid Price : 1,460,900.00

LOT 73 - Lot Only
LA: 3,210sqm.
Lot 10-E Banana St., Brgy. V
Minimum Bid Price : 1,460,900.00

LOT 74 - Lot Only
LA: 4,024sqm.
Lot 10-G Banana St., Brgy. V
Minimum Bid Price : 1,831,200.00

LOT 75 - Lot Only
LA: 4,023sqm.
Lot 10-H Banana St., Brgy. V
Minimum Bid Price 1,830,500.00

TALISAY

LOT 76 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 180sqm. FA: 42sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 33 Zone 12-A Carmela Valley Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 555,300.00

LOT 77 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 180sqm. FA: 151sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 6 Sta Lucia St., Carmela Valley Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 878,250.00

LOT 78 - Lot Only (Improvement not worth appraising)
LA: 180sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 33 Zone 12-A Carmela Valley Subd
Minimum Bid Price 243,000.00

TOBOSO

LOT 79 - Lot Only
LA: 297sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 4 Road Lot 2 Dumdum Subd
Minimum Bid Price : 62,900.00

LOT 80 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA: 10,275sqm.
Lot 1819 Sitio San Roque, Brgy. Salamanca
Minimum Bid Price : 42,750.00

LOT 81 - Lot Only
LA: 329sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 6, Dumdum Subd., Brgy. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 52,800.00

VALLADOLID

LOT 82 - Lot with Makeshift Improvement
LA: 108,725sqm.
Lot 1358-G-2-F & 1358-G-2-A Brgy Palaka
Minimum Bid Price 1,772,000.00

VICTORIAS

LOT 83 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 300sqm. FA. 91sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 10 Urdaneta St., Salvacion Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 338,400.00

LOT 84 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 285sqm. FA: 155sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 18 Cor. Mabolo-Doña Aurora Sts. Brgy. Villamonte, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price : 828,000.00

LOT 85 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 1,448sqm. FA: 620sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 32 # 553 Camagong St., Brgy Villamonte, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price . 4,500,000.00

- GUARANTEED FINANCING -FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10YRS
- 10% DOWN PAYMENT FOR LOTS
- 25% DOWN PAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
- DEPOSIT PHP 25,000.00 CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK (NO DEPOSIT NO PARTICIPATION)
- FOR INSTALLMENT BUYERS PLS. BRING PROOF OF INCOME (ITR, CERT. OF EMPLOYMENT, BANK STATEMENT, ETC.)

Please Call AMG-PNB Inquiry Desk:
TEL NOs: (02) 832-2562 | (02) 526-3131
LOCALS: (JOEY) 2919 | 0921-7112238 | (VON) 7212 | (JR) 4538 |
(RAYMOND) 4539 | 0917-8562144
(FLAVIE) (034) 433-0991 | (GRACE) (034) 434-8007

phonebanking 573-8888
www.pnb.com.ph

PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS AND PARKING.

Vehicle firm program promotes entrepreneurship

Business opportunities offered

By Ronnel W. Domingo

UNIVERSAL MOTORS CORP. IS PROMOTING entrepreneurship as well as pushing for increased vehicle sales through a campaign that features its Nissan Urvan commercial vehicle.

Elizabeth H. Lee, UMC senior vice president, yesterday said the campaign dubbed "Ur Van, Ur Business" was aimed at strengthening the company's social involvement.

"It's like teaching people how to fish instead of just giving them fish," Lee said.

"Through this program, we want to help people explore their options to earn additional income and provide families an improved life," she added.

Lee said the campaign was UMC's way of further contributing to the nation's economic growth and human development.

"Filipinos are by nature resilient, flexible, optimistic, *maabilidad* and entrepreneurial," she said.

"They always find a way to build their dream for a better life and our program paves the way towards this dream."

Lee explained that UMC was suggesting several business possibilities that people could engaged in using the Urvan which comes in 12-seater, 15-seater and 18-seater variants.

She said the vehicle could be used for school or general shuttle services; vehicle for rent or hire; ambulance and cargo delivery.

Under the program, the Urvan, which costs about P1.19 million, would be sold at a down payment of 20 percent or about P200,000.

The idea is that the rest of the amount would be paid out with part of the income derived from the business that buyers would go into.

"What we are pushing for are business opportunities that require relatively minimum capital, simple, flexible and self-liquidating," Lee said.

However, she explained that UMC's support was primarily in informing buyers on how to go about their particular venture as the business would be the customers own initiative.

Further, Lee said UMC had committed to donate P1,000 for every unit sold to the Center for Community Transformation Credit Cooperative.

"We have been working with the CCTCC since 2004 and we have seen how their projects have helped people explore opportunities that bring more income," she said.

Ever plans to write off ₱416M worth of advances to affiliates

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SHOPPING MALL DEVELOPER EVER GOTESCO Resources and Holdings Inc. of businessman Jose Go said it was planning to write off P416 million worth of cash advances to its affiliates that turned sour.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ever Gotesco corporate secretary Vicente Cañoneo said the amount to be written off formed part of the P918 million in cash advances to or receivables from affiliates as of Jan. 1, 2005.

Of the amount up for write-off, P336.5 million were deemed no longer collectible from the following affiliates: Dominion Properties Management , Baker's Magic Inc., Progress Movers Development Corp, Orient Commercial Banking Corp., Ok Star Inc., Evercrest Cebu Golf Club & Resort Inc., and Go Tong.

The company made provisions for P79.6 million in doubtful accounts from Gotesco Properties Inc., Gotesco Land, United Doctors Service Corp. and Gulod Resort Inc.

For the quarter that ended September last year, the company recorded a net loss of P13.7 million as revenue got hit by lower rental rates, lower occupancy rates and the closure of some cinemas.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Ever Gotesco officials.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirement, viz

1.) Various Electrical Supplies (ABC: 4,245,100.00)
2.) Various Construction Materials (ABC: 3,034,300.00)

The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Dumaguete City, with Tel/Fax # (035) 225-2433.

For the Information and Guidance of all concerned, herewith is the schedule of the Bidding activity for the aforementioned requirements, viz

Activity	Schedule
1. Advertisement (PDI)	March 11 & 18, 2006
2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat, PGSO, Capitol Area	March 10-30, 2006
3. Pre-Bid Conference, PGSO, Capitol Area	March 21, 2006, 9:30 A.M.
4. Submission and Opening of Bids, PGSO, Capitol Area	March 30, 2006, 10:00 A.M.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMALE P. MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI—March 11 & 18, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

SECURITY PLANT COMPLEX (SPC) DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Security Plant Complex, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will sell/auction thru sealed bids dismantled building materials/facilities, unserviceable armored vehicle truck, unserviceable furniture and equipment such as personal computers, industrial fans, compressors, spare parts for various printing and coining machines, various supplies and consumables for check production, and other scrap materials.

The sealed bids must be received by the SPC Disposal Committee not later than 10:00 a.m. on 28 March 2006 at Room 504, 5th Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bidders for computers, supplies and consumables for check production must be DENR-accredited handlers of hazardous materials.

Interested parties can inspect the said items during regular working days from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the BSP Security Plant Complex on or before 27 March 2006.

Auction forms can be obtained from the SPC Disposal Committee's Executive Officer, Mrs. Rouena L. Rosal at Room 405, 4th Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. No. 920-2003

(Sgd.) ORLANDO B. ASIDDAO
Chairman

(PDI - March 18, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building EDSA Greenhills
Mandaluyong City

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Republic of the Philippines
Securities and Exchange Commission
Metro Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE
REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES
LEXBER INCORPORATED
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on September 15, 2005, a registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of LEXBER INCORPORATED to cover 1,020 Non-Proprietary Timeshares of Lexber Homes Beachworld Resort (the Project) with an offer price enumerated as follows

Number of Shares Offered	Unit Price	Offering
Red 500	200	P 225,000
	150	265,000
	150	295,000
White 260	88	175,000
	86	200,000
	86	220,000
Blue 260	88	145,000
	86	165,000
	86	195,000

The total estimated gross proceeds from the offering amount to Two Hundred Twenty Four Million Six Hundred Seventy Thousand Pesos (P224,670,000.00)

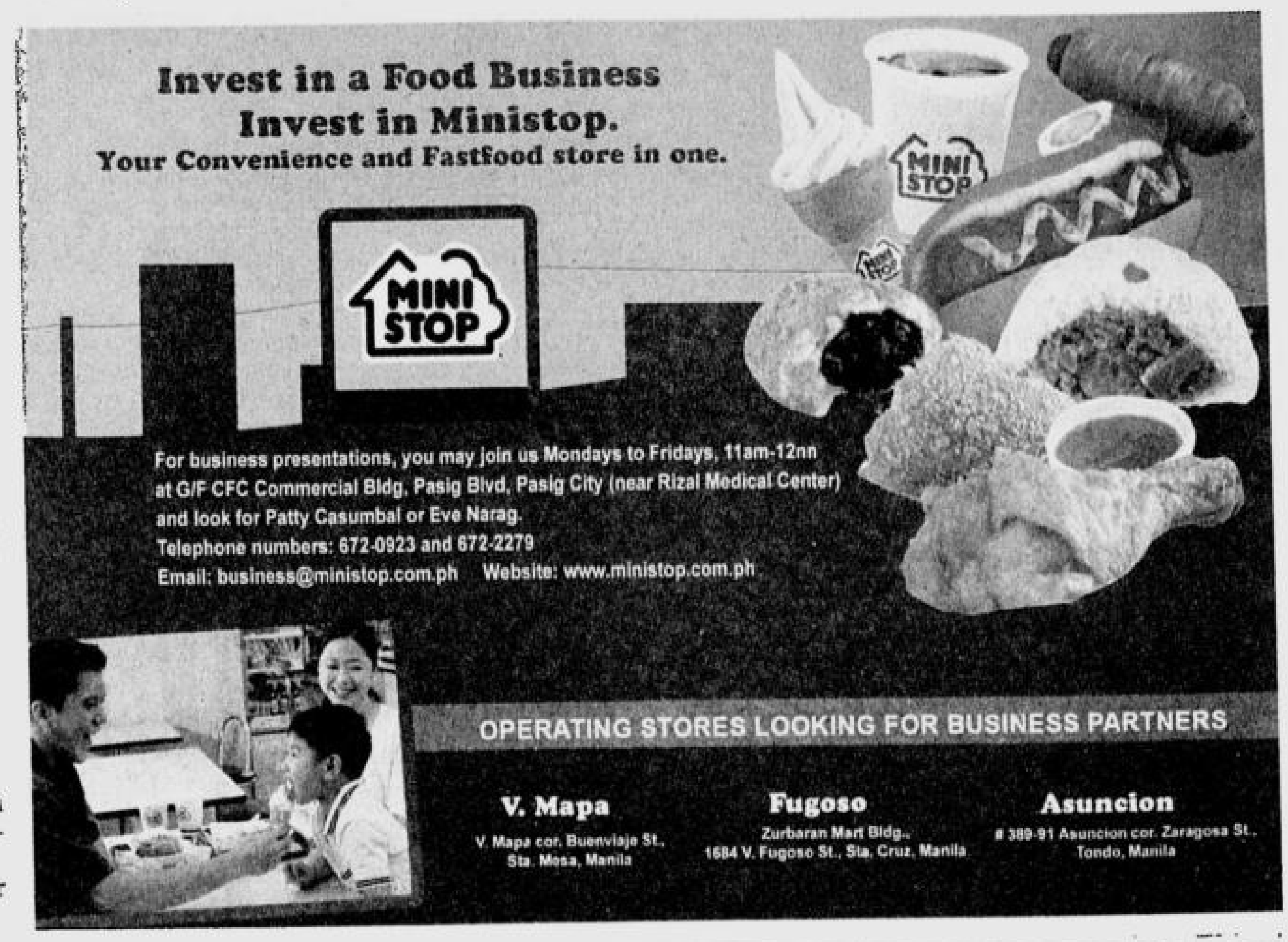
According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation

NAME	POSITION
ALEJANDRO G. CRUZ-HERRERA	Chairman and CEO
BERNARDITA R. CRUZ-HERRERA	Director & Corp. Secretary
ELPIDIO Y. CUSTODIO	Director/Asst. Corp. Secretary
MANUEL R. TOLOME	Director/Assistant Treasurer
ALEXIS R. CRUZ-HERRERA	Principal Operating Officer/Comptroller
RODERICK P. BAYBAYAN	Principal Accounting Officer
ANITA L. MACUTO	Principal Treasury Officer

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN

(PDI March 18 & 20, 2006)


Invest in a Food Business
Invest in Ministop.
Your Convenience and Fastfood store in one.

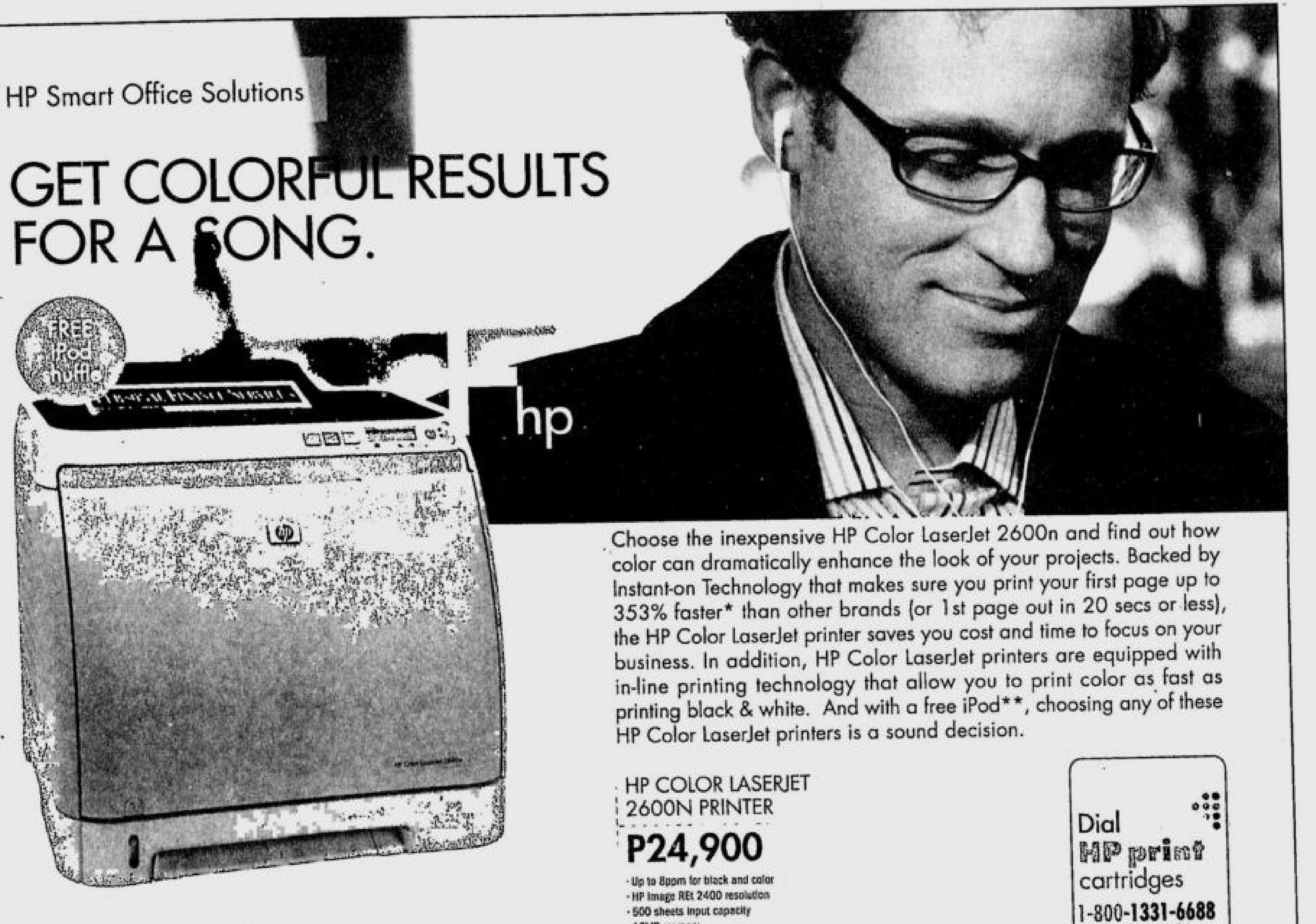
For business presentations, you may join us Mondays to Fridays, 11am-12nn at G/F CFC Commercial Bldg. Pasig Blvd, Pasig City (near Rizal Medical Center) and look for Patty Casumbal or Eve Narag.
Telephone numbers: 672-0923 and 672-2279
Email: business@ministop.com.ph Website: www.ministop.com.ph

OPERATING STORES LOOKING FOR BUSINESS PARTNERS

V. Mapa
V. Mapa cor. Buenviaje St., Sta. Mesa, Manila

Fugoso
Zurbaran Mart Bldg., 1684 V. Fugoso St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

Asuncion
389-91 Asuncion cor. Zaragosa St., Tondo, Manila



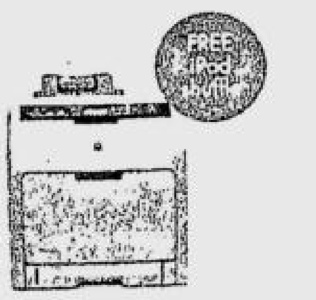
HP Smart Office Solutions

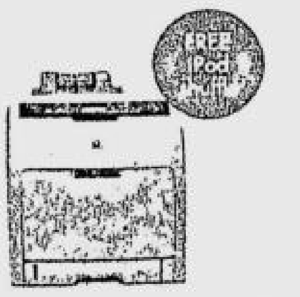
GET COLORFUL RESULTS FOR A SONG.

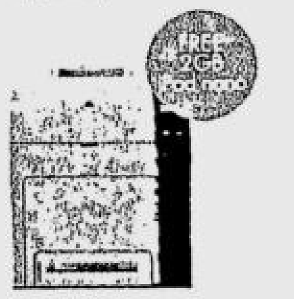
Choose the inexpensive HP Color LaserJet 2600n and find out how color can dramatically enhance the look of your projects. Backed by Instant-on Technology that makes sure you print your first page up to 353% faster* than other brands (or 1st page out in 20 secs or less), the HP Color LaserJet printer saves you cost and time to focus on your business. In addition, HP Color LaserJet printers are equipped with in-line printing technology that allow you to print color as fast as printing black & white. And with a free iPod**, choosing any of these HP Color LaserJet printers is a sound decision.

HP COLOR LASERJET
2600N PRINTER
P24,900
- Up to 8ppm for black and color
- HP Image REt 2400 resolution
- 500 sheets input capacity
- 16MB memory
- Hi-speed USB 2.0 port
- Built in Fast Ethernet wired networking
- First page out in under 20 sec
- 1 year warranty

Dial
HP print
cartridges
1-800-1331-6688
doorstep delivery







HP COLOR LASERJET
3600 PRINTER
P38,820
- Up to 17ppm for black and color
- 64MB memory
- HP Image REt 3600 resolution
- Hi-speed USB 2.0 port
- First page out in under 14 sec
- 350-sheet input tray
- Suitable for printing 1,000 – 3,000 pages per month
- 1 year warranty

HP COLOR LASERJET
3800 PRINTER
P51,800
- Up to 22ppm for black and color
- 96MB memory
- HP Image REt 3600 resolution
- Hi-speed USB 2.0 port
- First page out in under 12.5 sec
- 350-sheet input tray
- Suitable for printing 1,500 – 5,000 pages per month
- 1 year warranty

HP COLOR LASERJET
4700n PRINTER
P121,300
- Up to 31ppm for black and color
- 160MB memory
- HP Image REt 3600 resolution
- Parallel port
- First page out in under 10 sec
- Suitable for printing 3,000 – 10,000 pages per month
- 500-sheet input tray
- 1 year warranty

Get a FREE iPod when you get any of the participating HP printers!**

PROMO MECHANICS:
1. Buy any of the participating HP printers** from participating resellers^ and receive a FREE iPod Shuffle or Nano.
2. Customers need to present the ff:
   - Sales invoice/Official Receipt
   - Printer serial number sticker
   - Promo sticker cut out (all required information should be completely filled up)
   - Valid ID
3. Fax or email to Acropolis-Beaverworks c/o Kristina Reyes:
   Fax no: 747-0184
   Email address: kristina@acro-beaver.com.ph
   Tel no: 687-4884 to 84
4. A customer representative will call to inform you of your confirmation receipt number and advise you of arrangements in claiming your iPod.
5. Present the promo sticker, serial number cut out and a photocopy of the invoice upon delivery of the iPod.
6. Promo duration is from February 15 to March 31,2006.
7. Customers may redeem their free iPod valid until May 31, 2006.

** Get a Free iPod when you purchase any of these HP Printers
Free iPod Shuffle for every purchase of Color LaserJet 2600n, 3600n, 3600dn, 3800, 3800n, or 3800dn Printer
Free 2GB iPod Nano for every purchase of Color LaserJet 4700dn or 4700dtn Printer

SMART ADVICE>SMART TECHNOLOGY>SMART SUPPORT

iPod Shuffle
iPod Nano

1-800-1441-6688 or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com
Visit your nearest authorized HP resellers

hp
invent

©2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30a.m. to 5:30p.m. *QualityLogic Performance Report, October 2004. Testing was performed by QualityLogic under laboratory conditions and results may vary.

^ PARTICIPATING RESELLERS Metro Manila • Accent MicroTech - 6363563 • AMPC - 6347999 • Columbia Tech Inc - 6240393/5226989 • CTLink - 8030515 • ICS - 7273801 • Infoworx - 8983354/8975147 • Microgenesis - 8924447 • Microgold - 8841571/8665886 • Netex - 9304736/9301688 Octagon Park Square - 8071705 • Octagon SM Megamall - 6359080 • Phil Data - 8112878-91 • Productivity Technologies - 8992092 • Proton Microsystem - 5267152 • Shelsoft - 7400431 • Silicon Valley SM Manila - 5233218/400416/8 • Silicon Valley SM Megamall - 6331724 • Unicon - 3745888 09

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 0971 Series of 2006

Investor willing to buy SM stake in EPCIB–Garcia

Sy family to consider offer on three conditions

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SM GROUP, INCLUDING Banco de Oro Universal Bank, said it was willing to consider an offer from an undisclosed buyer to acquire the group's 34-percent stake in Equitable PCI Bank provided its three conditions were met, SM insiders told INQUIRER.

The sources said the offer to buy the group's EPCIB shares at P95 per share, which was relayed by state pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) yesterday to regulators, would only be considered if the "payment would be in cash, the offer is binding and if there would be no due diligence review."

In a letter addressed to BDO chair Teresita Sy, GSIS president Winston Garcia said an "undisclosed buyer" was interested in buying the stakes of the SM group and BDO in EPCI Bank at P95 per share.

"If the price is acceptable to the SM Group, kindly inform me so the buyer can immediately discuss with you the proposed purchase of (the) said shares," Garcia said in the letter.

Sources said the terms of the offer were unclear on whether the buyer was interested to also purchase the GSIS's 12-percent stake in EPCIB.

The Social Security System (SSS), also an EPCIB shareholder, said it too wanted to see the terms of the offer.

SSS owns 29 percent of EPCIB, inclusive of treasury shares.

"This will provide us the basis for our presentation to the SSS commission and the Supreme Court in relation to a pending case involving the SSS shares in Equitable PCI," SSS president Corazon dela Paz said in a telephone interview.

BDO corporate information officer Elmer Serrano told the PSE in a letter that the bank had not received any formal or binding offer to purchase its holdings in EPCI Bank at P95.00 a share. BDO said there were no ongoing formal discussions relating to such an offer.

Early this year, BDO offered to merge with EPCI Bank to create the second or third largest bank in the country with combined resources of P500 billion.

BDO is currently the sixth largest in terms of resources of P212.3 billion. It is the 8th strongest in terms of capital.

Under the proposed terms of the merger, BDO will swap 1.6 common shares for every EPCI Bank common share at the option of the EPCI Bank board of directors.

PSE unit accepts Roxas nomination

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange (PSE) has allowed Ortigas broker and former PSE governor Joseph Roxas to run as director in this year's bourse elections on April 8.

This has increased the total number of nominees vying for the 15 board seats at the PSE to 22.

The PSE nominations and elections committee accepted Roxas' nomination for a board seat late Monday, after some quarters in the exchange questioned the reported disqualification of this broker from joining the elections.

Roxas has qualified under the "small broker" category, composed of brokers with turnover and paid-up capital of less than P500 million. Other broker nominees under this category are PSE director Francisco Villaroman of Securities Specialists and Rodolfo Cruz of HK Securities.

Five of the seven seats reserved for brokers will represent "big brokers," or those with value turnover and paid-up capital of more than P500 million. Two will represent the small brokers.

Roxas said he was hoping he could get the support of brokers at and institutional shareholders of the PSE.

He added that the representation of small brokers in the PSE board was "a poor 13 percent" even while small brokers make up 80 percent of all PSE brokers. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

DISCLOSURES

SM Prime Holdings Inc. said its annual stockholders' meeting would be held on April 26, 2006 at 3 p.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula, Makati City.

***

THE IPEOPLE Inc. board of directors has approved a 5-percent dividend payable on April 28. The board has also confirmed the appointment of lawyer Samuel V. Torres as corporate secretary.

***

SOLID Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 3 p.m. at the Fairways, Manila Golf & Country Club, Harvard Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

***

MARIA Theresa T. Defensor was named a member of the **Philippine National Construction Corp.** board of directors and acting president effective March 16. She has been assigned 10 shares. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 17, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35	35	34.5	35	206,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62	62	61.5	62	834,300
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	820
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.39	3,270,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75	78.5	74.5	74.5	415,400
International Exch. Bank	26	27	26	27	57,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	37.5	37	37.5	565,300
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	3,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	1,100
Security Bank Corp.	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	45,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	5,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	24	24.5	24	24.5	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	3240	3240	3240	3240	120
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	20,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2180	2180	2180	2180	450
Ivantage Corp.	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.82	3,450,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	41.5	42	41.5	42	22,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41.5	42.5	41	42.5	453,500
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13	12.75	13	187,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20	20	19.75	20	392,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	337,000
Petron Corp.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	3,094,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	430,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	390,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	18.5	19	18.5	18.75	132,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	38.5	38	38	237,700
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.76	518,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60.5	61	60	60.5	26,500
San Miguel Corp. B	77.5	78	76.5	78	229,200
Universal Robina Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.29	2,480,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.26	1.3	2,165,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.4	4.35	4.4	240,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	200,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	22,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	400,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	1,400,000
Stenlel Manufacturing	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	40,000,000
Ayala Corp.	342.5	345	342.5	345	70,040
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	140,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	5	285,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	5,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	1,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.235	0.21	0.23	2,690,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	13,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	250,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	58,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.97	0.93	0.97	10,640,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	200,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	110,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.44	2.55	2.44	2.48	1,983,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	1,307,000
Medco Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	80,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	7,290,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.53	50,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	26,690,000
SM Investments Corp.	224	225	224	225	85,650
South China Resources Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74	130,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.41	0.48	0.41	0.48	490,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.14	0.125	0.14	3,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.5	4,617,000
Belle Corp.	0.99	1.06	0.99	1.04	2,570,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,650,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	1,215,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	360,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	500,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.21	0.18	0.21	530,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	7,820,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.75	0.7	0.74	1,530,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.24	4,480,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	3	3	3	3	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	480,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	290,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	5,037,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	11,560,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	335,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.25	0.27	0.245	0.27	7,300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	8	8.1	3,345,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.135	5,680,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	17,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.32	101,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	500,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	865	885	865	875	32,780
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.05	3,571,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1830	1830	1820	1825	75,690
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	5,110,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	74,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	36,500,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	2,000
Philweb Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	27,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12.5	12.5	12	12	458,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	60,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	10,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	705,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.84	1.88	1.82	1.88	5,692,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	900,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	605	605	600	600	2,470
Ipeople Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	55,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	255,000
Paxys Inc.	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.4	524,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	20,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	875,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.215	0.2	0.215	760,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	5,690,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	245,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	41,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	30,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	2	2.04	2	2.04	4,832,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.18	2.22	2.14	2.22	6,127,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	2,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.34	0.35	0.3	0.31	4,820,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	290,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	1,410,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.47	200,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4	4	3.85	3.9	52,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Dd	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.75	402,900

CURRENCIES

March 17, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.820681	1.000000	51.0920
Japan	Yen	0.007027	0.008562	0.4374
United Kingdom	Pound	1.442593	1.757800	89.8095
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105795	0.128911	6.5863
Switzerland	Franc	0.636680	0.775795	39.6369
Canada	Dollar	0.712026	0.867604	44.3276
Singapore	Dollar	0.507533	0.618429	31.5968
Australia	Dollar	0.602954	0.734700	37.5373
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.177682	2.653505	135.5729
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218825	0.266638	13.6231
Brunei	Dollar	0.505969	0.616523	31.4994
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000109	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021032	0.025628	1.3094
UAE	Dirham	0.223461	0.272287	13.9117
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.218500	62.2556
Argentina	Peso	0.267323	0.325733	16.6424
Brazil	Real	0.389872	0.475059	24.2717
Denmark	Kroner	0.134043	0.163332	8.3450
India	Rupee	0.018525	0.022573	1.1533
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221566	0.269978	13.7937
Mexico	New Peso	0.077124	0.093976	4.8014
New Zealand	Dollar	0.522295	0.636416	32.5158
Norway	Kroner	0.124923	0.152219	7.7772
South Africa	Rand	0.133012	0.162075	8.2807
Korea	Won	0.000842	0.001026	0.0524
Sweden	Kroner	0.107017	0.130400	6.6624
Syria	Pound	0.015810	0.019264	0.9842
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025302	0.030831	1.5752

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Saturday, March 18, 2006

Sayaw.
Drama.
Iba.
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
ABC
Iba Tayo!
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		Ripley's Believe It Or Not		ABCinema					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Little Big Star		Komiks			Quizon Avenue	E Buzz	TV Patrol World	XXX		Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		Girlfight					The Contender Special: East Coast Pride					The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Lost (Season II)		Blue Streak			
Cartoon Network	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	Madeline Lost In Paris			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Battle B-Daman	The Gransazers	Loonatics Unleashed	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021
Cinema One	Mano Po 3: My Love				Volta				My Movie				Kung Kalangan Mo Ako				Anak Dalita		
Cinemax			It Could Happen To You			Ghost (5:10 PM)				The Assassin (7:15 PM)				Philadelphia				Dead Birds (11:05PM)	
CNN	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	World News	World Business This Week	World News	International Correspondents	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Next@CNN	World News	International Correspondents	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense	Forensic Files	Bones		Profiler		North Mission Road	Body Of Evidence	Crossing Jordan		Surface		Bones		Prison Break		Shawshank Redemption			
Discovery Channel		The Boy Who Gave Birth To His Twin		Unsolved History		Power Zone				Zero Hour		New Detectives		Crime Stories		A Haunting		American Chopper	
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire	Totally Spies- Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Click It To Pick It	Buzz on Maggie	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody		Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						X-Games Files '04		World Pool Masters '02 Semi		World Pool League '02 Semi		Pool Masters Cup '02		Winter X Games Classic	NBA Game Suns @ Spurs				
ETC		Love Shack		Insider Weekend	Will & Grace 4	Saturday Night Live		The O.C. 2		Beauty & The Geek		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show Jay Leno	
EWTN	Miracles Of The Child Jesus	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Knights Of St. Michael	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Catholic Compass		The World Over Encore		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass (SKP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Sacraments Through The Ages	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel	Ladies Man	Ladies Man	Peacekeeper War			Peacekeeper War (5:15 PM)				Mystery Woman: Mystery Weekend				Category 6: Day Of Destruction					
HBO		As Good As It Gets					Top Gun				Along Came Polly			The Forgotten			Deadwood Ep [illegible] Upon Part 1	Mean Girls (11:15PM)	
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Mars The Terminator	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazer	Shaman King	Bucky the Kid	Musumet	The X-Treme Team	Machine Robo Rescue	Mon Colle Knights	Mars The Terminator	Hero TV Theatrixx			Love Hina	The X-Treme Team	Bubu Chacha	Musumet
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nations Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics		Bitag		Philippine Sabong Sports	Bantay Ozone Layer		
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	X-Play	Cinematch	Bottomline		Raw				Banzai	Banzai	Mad TV		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		NY Fashion Week	How Do I Look? Jackie Collins Presents: Young, Hip & Privileged			
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits		Bling # 105	VH1 All Access: Outrageous Transformations		VH1's How the Stars Got Hot		Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Cribs	MTV Live [illegible]		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5		Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic		Strange Days On Planet Earth		No Borders				Be The Creature		Built For The Kill		Hidden Worlds		Terrorism Week				No Borders	
NBN				[illegible] Billiards League		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN				Cue Masters	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	Chalkzone	Trollz	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			AB Normal				Parricide				Ang Boyfriend Kong Gamol				Manalo Matalo Mahal Kita				Hanggang Sa Bukang Liwayway
Qtv		Kiddy Grade		The Prince Of Tennis		Candies		Fans Kita		Ayll Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Global Window		Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Man & Machine		Global Window		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse					
SBN 21								Sony Music Video		JAG		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan	Telefutura	Shepherd's Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		Davis Cup 2005 Day 3 Match 1							GWS 11-2006	NBA Game Blazers @ Cavaliers									NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus			PAC 10 Basketball UCLA @ Cal				FIFA Preview Series 5	World Poker Tour 2				Ultimate Fighting Champ Special						Bay Hill Invitational Day2	
Star Movies		Simon Birch				Rising Sun (4:05PM)				William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet				The Grudge			[illegible] Chronicles 2 (10:35PM)		
Star World		American Idol		Miami Vice		Wild Card		Less Than Perfect (Series 2)	The Drew Carey Show	The Chronicle: News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters/ British Academy Of Film & TV Awards 2006		Enterprise		The Simpsons	Less Than Perfect (Series 2)
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Sports TV	Nginig	Pinoy Big Brother		Survivor Panama (8:10PM)		Studio 23 Presents					

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**
Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Fighting obesity on two fronts

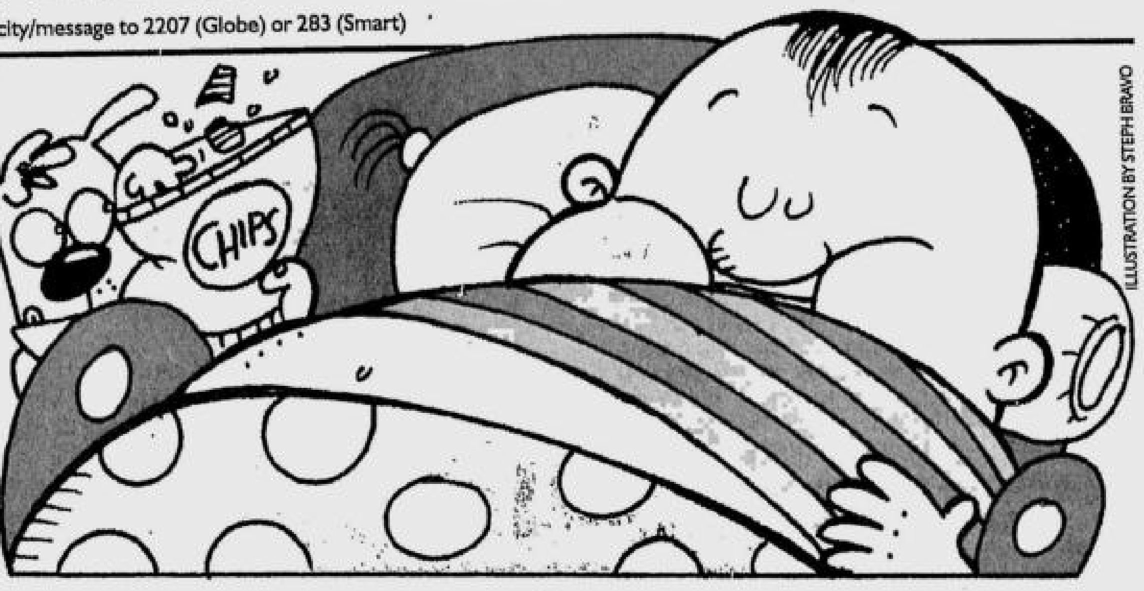


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Charles E. Buban

WHAT MAKES US fat? Decades ago, the reasons were much simpler: eating too much and being lazy.

Today, aside from these two reasons, researchers are pointing to other factors like a person's genes, metabolism, behavior, environment, culture and socioeconomic status.

"It's much more complicated than a simple equation comparing calories consumed with calories used. Researchers are also discovering that certain parts of our body allow some people to pig out and not gain weight, while others experience significant weight gain after just a slight overindulgence," said Dr. Alma Casareo, medical director of Sanofi-Aventis.

A few years ago, researchers of the Paris-based pharmaceutical company developed a way of suppressing appetite through a weight-loss drug that blocks a certain kind of receptor found in the brain and in the fat cells that regulates food intake.

"This experimental drug called rimonabant shows promise as men and women who stayed on it for two years managed to lose weight and keep it off. An added bonus was that researchers also found that those who took the drug showed improved blood levels of cholesterol and triglycerides," Casareo said.

Smaller waistline

According to results of the study involving more than 3,000 obese or overweight adults, those who took the drug for two years achieved an average 3.6 kg weight loss, boosted their high density lipoprotein ("good cholesterol") by 6.3 percent, and dropped their bad triglycerides by 8.5 percent.

They also experienced an average reduction in waist circumference of 2.8 cm more than those who took placebo.

"Since majority of the patients have an increased risk for diabetes and heart disease, the lowering of these additional risk factors [increased waist circumference, elevated blood pressure or abnormal lipid levels] are definitely welcome," Casareo said.

Rimonabant is currently under review by the US Food and Drug Administration and the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products.

Nonsurgical procedure

There is another, and already established, approach that has helped people beat their craving for food and to lose weight.

The BioEnterics Intragastric Balloon (BIB) procedure is a nonsurgical, nonpharmaceutical alternative that works by making the brain believe that the stomach is already full.

The BIB is a soft, silicone balloon that is orally inserted into the stomach and filled with sterile saline.

It gives the person a feeling of satiety, thus helping him reduce his food intake and to adopt new dietary habits, said Dr. Edward DC Oliveros, a bariatric surgeon at the St. Luke's Medical Center.

Oliveros considers this 20-minute procedure one of the safest since there is no surgery involved and hence, has no serious and damaging side effects.

Significant weight loss

Oliveros said that since the BIB was introduced in the country in 2003, individuals who have undergone the procedure have had significant weight loss, averaging between 15 kg and 20 kg.

But he said the results depend mostly on how well the patient follows the program and adjusts his eating habits.

"No surgery gives lasting results unless people also change their eating and exercise habits," said Oliveros, who sees the combination of surgery, medication and other approaches as the future in fighting obesity more effectively.

Oliveros said that worldwide, there is an increasing effort to support research that will result in better treatments and therapies for weight loss and the prevention of obesity's associated diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some forms of cancer.

The World Health Organization has warned that a staggering one billion of the world's population are now overweight, and if the trend continues, the figure will rise to 1.5 billion by 2015.

Jose Abril Marasigan: problem solver

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

I FIRST MET DR. JOSE MARAsigan when I was in fourth year high school. Our team won the silver medal in the Metro Manila Math Competition, and onstage we shook hands with a bespectacled gentleman: Doc Mara.

The year after, even when I was on the list of students for advanced placement, I was intimidated by my batchmates, or more correctly, their schools. They hailed from Philippine Science, Ateneo High, etc., and an honors math class in the first semester of freshman year was daunting.

I sought Doc Mara's counsel. After quietly suggesting that I try it out, he proceeded to pose the Bouffon Needle Problem on the board, complete with diagrams and basic probability. I was hooked. We launched into some of the most exhilarating math ever.

Mind-boggling tests

Quizzes were a daily occurrence (once, we had a surprise test when one of us dared to fall asleep). His long tests were tough, with mind-boggling bonus problems. Doc Mara went around the room, and if he discovered that no one had yet gotten the answer, he would unveil cryptic hints on the board.

He has an otherworldly sense of humor. Once he displayed Fermat's Last Theorem and promised an automatic A to anyone who could prove it. The theorem looked so easy that we tackled it at once, to no avail. Then we scoured the stacks, and I am sure that never in the history of our library had so many students inundated the Math section at one time. In the end we had to find other routes to an A.

I took every subject Doc Mara taught in those years such that upon graduation, I ended up with more units than required. He is a master teacher, and whether it was Boolean logic or finite geometries, he never stopped enticing us with intriguing problems.

Ateneo grad

Born on May 26, 1943, Doc Mara graduated, cum laude, with a BS Mathematics honors degree from the Ateneo in 1962 and started teaching grade school there. He received a Diplom-Mathematik in 1967 and a Dr.rer.nat (Math) in 1971 from the Technische Hochschule Darmstadt in Germany, whereupon he came back to the Ateneo and became department chair in college from 1973 to 1983.

Recently, he spearheaded a new program, the five-year BS-Master's Applied Math, major in Finance.

A key figure in the UP-Ateneo-De La Salle Consortium, he became the adviser of many mathematicians, now well-known in their fields. As president of the Math Society of the Philippines, he pushed for the formulation of the Policies and Standards for Mathematics.

He edited several textbook series. "New Math for Today," a prep to Grade 8 series for which Doc Mara and I acted as consultants, is used in many private schools.

Math competitions

It is in problem solving that Doc Mara yields the most influence. In 1984, when some local Olympiad winners did well in the Australian Math Competition, the head at that time, the late Peter O' Halloran, was impressed when he met coach Doc Mara and invited us to compete Down Under. Our youth did well enough that we sent a team to the International Math Olympiad (IMO) in 1988, and Victor Luchangco of the Ateneo bagged an honorable mention.

In 1989, Doc Mara finalized the Program of Excellence in Math to train talented students, and to date we have more than 15 IMO medals.

He also started the Philippine Math Olympiad, and today he extends help to yet another endeavor: the Ateneo Math Olympiad (AMO). Patterned after the IMO, the AMO is the brainchild of Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S. J. and seeks to develop in the youth the attitude, mindset and techniques required for nonroutine problem solving.

High school math

Next month, Doc Mara will handle a class of talented high school students, emphasizing math modeling, math finance, and geometric construction. The class is open to the public, but slots are very limited, so e-mail me at blessbook@yahoo.com immediately.

Doc Mara became an Outstanding Young Scientist in 1982, a Dr. Juan Salcedo Jr. Science Educator and the Most Outstanding Ateneo Senior Lay Teacher in 1993. He was listed in the World Directory of Mathematicians as early as 1979.

Thank you, Doc Mara, for your friendship, humor and counsel, and I look forward to more problem-solving discussions together.

The choice is yours

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IMAGINE THAT THE LAST time you bought a cell phone was a decade or so ago. Back then, if you needed a new phone, your selection may have been limited to battery life and service costs.

Now pretend that after all this time you've decided it's time to replace that trusty cell phone with something newer. Suddenly you find that aside from the items on your previous checklist, you also have to factor in the cell phone design and color, features such as texting, audiovisual capabilities, Internet-ready, how many continents said phone will work in, and, of course, which cell phone plan to get to avail of all these features.

Overwhelmed by all these options, you can either: a) spend the next few days comparing every phone on the market; or b) spend the time thinking about other things.

According to a new study from researchers in the psychology department at the University of Amsterdam, if you choose to do the latter, the decision won't take as long and you'll be happier with your selection in the long run.

Conscious thought

Social psychologist Ap Dijksterhuis is the lead author of the paper, which appeared in the Feb. 17 issue of the journal Science. He and his colleagues conducted a series of experiments to determine whether or not consciously thinking—by which they mean directed attention on the topic at hand—about choices is really the best way to make decisions.

While most people subscribe to the notion that one needs to really think about options before making any decisions, Dijksterhuis et al. suggest that simple decisions such as buying a new shirt are easily made using conscious thought, while complex decisions such as buying a new sofa are less difficult when the person is distracted and focused on other matters.

80 students

Two experiments demonstrate their hypothesis. In the first experiment, 80 college students were asked to choose the best car out of four possibilities, giving them four factors to consider. It was found that after four minutes of deliberation, 75 percent of the students selected the car the researchers had designated as the best option.

The experiment was repeated, and the students were given the same four cars but this time with 12 factors to consider. Only 25 percent of the students were able to select the best option after the same deliberation period.

On the other hand, when the students were asked to solve word anagrams during the four minutes they had to select the best car, 75 percent of them were able to do so.

The researchers also looked into whether or not conscious and unconscious thought affected the decider's long-term satisfaction. They staked out the exits of a local clothing department store and the local IKEA furniture store and asked shoppers about their purchases: how much they spent and how much time they spent thinking about their purchases.

Categorizing shoppers

Based on these answers, and excluding impulse buyers, the shoppers were categorized as conscious or unconscious thinkers.

After a few weeks, Dijksterhuis et al. called the shoppers back and asked if they were still happy with their purchases. They found that the conscious thinkers at the clothing store and the unconscious thinkers at the IKEA were happier with their purchases than the other shoppers.

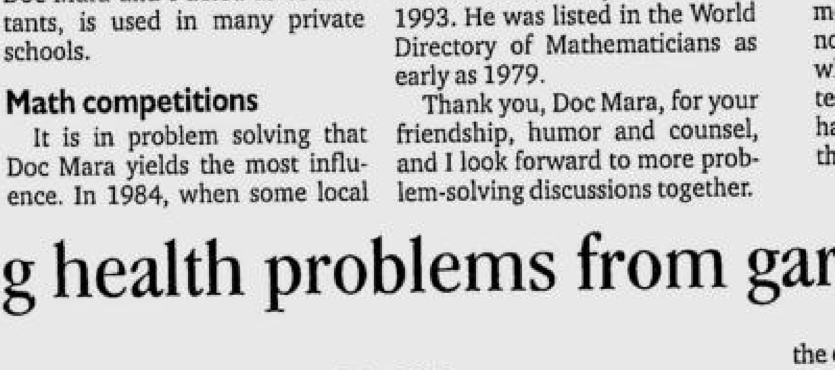
Based on this information, the researchers proposed their Unconscious Thought Theory (UTT), which suggests that conscious thought subscribes to precise, ordered thinking.

When the mind is occupied by other matters, however, the brain gathers all the data collected and can find patterns that may not have been obvious otherwise, which can help a person make more complicated decisions easier.

So, if you need your next cell phone to be one you can use anywhere, think carefully about your choices. If, on the other hand, what you really want is a portable A/V center that happens to take calls, sleep on it.

Lifelong health problems from garbage

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD



MEDICAL FILES

LAST WEEK, REPORTERS FROM a TV program showed me the chest X-ray and other laboratory results of a 10-year-old scavenger whose family seemed oblivious to the health hazards of daily exposure to all the bacteria, chemicals and toxic residue contained in garbage, for a measly P10 to P15—the boy's earnings for a full day's work.

This boy's heart was big (based on his X-rays), he was anemic, his blood sugar was high, and his eosinophils (the blood elements which increase when there's allergy or irritation in the body) was seven times the normal.

I didn't see the boy, but I was told that he was small for his age and he had skin discoloration and lesions all over the body.

The immune system of the boy was trying to neutralize and compensate for all the hazardous wastes the boy was exposed to. But at such a young age, his body was already showing signs of strain and disease. The seven-fold elevation of the eosinophils, the highest level I've seen in my entire practice, reflects the severity of irritation to the body's immune system.

His enlarged heart, in the absence of rheumatic and/or congenital heart disease, can also be due to the toxic effects of some metals like lead, arsenic and cadmium, which may be present in garbage.

Hazardous waste in garbage is harmful not only to the environment but to human health. The sources of hazardous waste are large and diverse. These wastes can be liquids, solids, contained gases, or sludges. They can be the by-products of manufacturing processes or simply discarded commercial products, like cleaning fluids or pesticides.

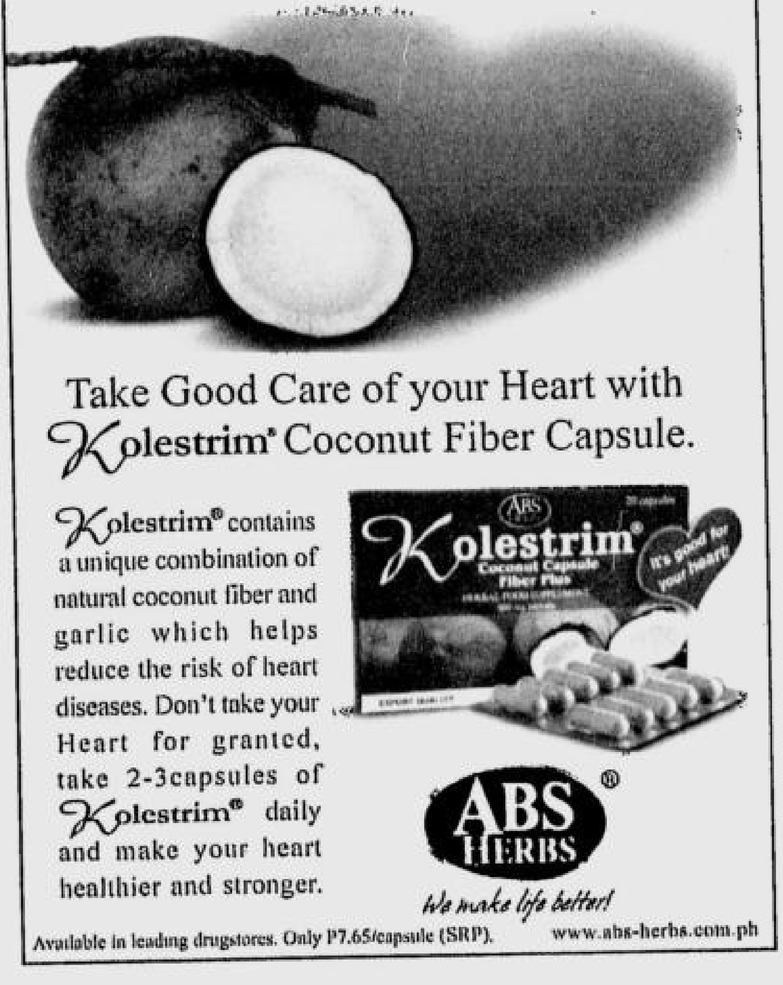
Inland disposal

When toxic waste is disposed inland, the contaminated liquid may leach from the waste, pollute the environment and create havoc on the garbage collectors' health.

The long-term effects on children trying to earn a few bucks by picking any sellable items from garbage are dreadful. Toxic wastes in garbage can affect the brain and nervous system of children, leading to a reduction in intelligence, loss of short-term memory, learning disabilities and problems with coordination. Some can also have uncontrollable shaking, muscle wasting and partial blindness.

It has also been suggested that some types of toxic wastes can affect behavioral inhibition mechanisms with a consequent increase in violence.

We hope the health or the social welfare departments and other agencies can exert a more active effort to give these poor children safer, and probably more profitable, alternatives than garbage collection. Hopefully, too, these children's parents would realize they are pushing their children into developing severe and irreversible medical problems in the long-term.


Take Good Care of your Heart with Kolestrim® Coconut Fiber Capsule.

Kolestrim® contains a unique combination of natural coconut fiber and garlic which helps reduce the risk of heart diseases. Don't take your Heart for granted, take 2-3capsules of Kolestrim® daily and make your heart healthier and stronger.

ABS HERBS®
We make life better!

Available in leading drugstores. Only P7.65/capsule (SRP). www.abs-herbs.com.ph

Fil-am wins a vacation house in Baguio

A 57-YEAR OLD FILIPINO AMERICAN WHO LIVES IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA won a vacation house in Baguio City in the extravagant promo of real estate developer Lexber Inc.

"I could not believe it. Out of thousands of entries, who would think I will be the lucky winner of a house and lot in Baguio," said Joseph Salao, a store specialist for the clothing firm Ralph Lauren.

Salao was one of the thousands of Filipinos who participated in the international promotional campaign of Lexber Inc, a 25-year-old company known for its vacation developments in top summer destinations in the Philippines such as Baguio City, Tagaytay City and La Union.

Lexber launched a raffle promo for those who attended its series of presentations all over the world, including the United States, Europe, Asia and other countries. The presentations were held to show to the Filipinos abroad the affordable subdivision and condominium developments located in the most delightful areas in the Philippines.

The raffle was drawn in December 2005 during Lexber's Christmas party, with Salao being declared as the lucky winner. Others who attended the presentations were also given gift certificates for a free three-day stay at Lexber's hotel-resort complex in Baguio, valid within two years.

Other winners were Dra. Evelita Macababad of Lemery Batangas who won a free trip for two to Hong Kong and Enriqueta Mindo from Ewa Beach, Hawaii with a free trip for two to Boracay.

Lexber said it offered the free accommodations to give Filipinos abroad a chance to "enjoy the ambience of Baguio anytime to go home to the Philippines for a visit."

Salao, who was born in Bulacan province in 1948 but migrated to the US when he was 29, is one of the eight million Filipinos who work and/or live overseas. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas estimated that these Filipinos have remitted more than US$10 billion to the Philippines in 2005 alone.

"I moved to the US to seek greener pastures. So far, I am doing well here," Salao said, although he admitted missing the beautiful atmosphere of the Philippines. "I miss the delightful places to go to in the Philippines and its tropical and consistent climate," he said.

He said that while he has no plan to return to the Philippines permanently anytime soon, his new vacation home in Baguio will make his visit to the country more frequent. Salao said he would rent out his vacation home to transients or even students in Baguio while he is in Las Vegas. "I heard there's a lot of rental potential in the area because of the people migrating there to study or work. But every time I go home to the Philippines, of course, I will enjoy my vacation home," he said.

Lexber has built vacation and retirement homes in fully developed, gated subdivisions in Baguio and Tagaytay and a world-class condominium-hotel resort complex by the beach in San Juan, La Union.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401*(632)920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph * Website http://www.sss.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

STORAGE AND SERVER CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

1. The project involves, as follows:
   - 1.1 Supply, delivery and installation of brand-new hardware equipment and software components that will:
     - a. replace existing major production servers and storage;
     - b. run all critical application systems;
     - c. act as business recovery system servers and storage;
     - d. perform auxiliary functions such as portal, security, development and backup and restore;
     - e. connect all components to the enterprise network.
   - 1.2 Delivery of services for the:
     - a. development of implementation plans for data management, backup and recovery, and security administration;
     - b. migration of existing application systems and database systems into the new environment;
     - c. training of personnel.
   - 1.3 For outright purchase proposal, provision of a three (3)-year comprehensive maintenance service, which will commence upon the expiration of the required two (2)-year warranty period.
2. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) intends to apply the sum of ***THREE HUNDRED FIFTY NINE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THREE PESOS AND 20/100 (P359,500,523.20)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above proposed equipment, consisting of the following:

	Item Description	Amount	Source of Fund
Item#1	Hardware & Software	P 276,538,864.00	CY2006 Approved Budget for Storage and Server Consolidation
Item#2	3-year Maintenance Service	P 82,961,659.20	Budget for Operating Expenditures
	TOTAL	P 359,500,523.20	M/R Computer Equipment

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

3. The SSS now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery, installation and set-up into operational state the required hardware and software equipment at the SSS Main Office and its San Pablo sites. Supply, delivery and installation of the GOODS are required within ***thirty (30) calendar days*** after contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section 1 of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a ***non-refundable fee of P100,000.00***. The method of payment will be on a cash basis payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg., Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
7. The SSS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***April 03, 2006*** at ***2:00p.m.***, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
8. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on **May 05, 2006** not later than **2:00p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. Bid opening shall be held on **May 05, 2006** at **2:00p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.
10. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – March 18, 2006)

Exciting Opportunities for Geologist

A leading international mining company is seeking professional and committed Geologist to boost their Geological team for a major narrow vein gold development project in Compostela Valley, Mindanao.

The positions are:

ONE (1) SR. MINE GEOLOGIST

Qualifications:

1.) Licensed Geologist with at least 5 years experience working in an underground gold mine;
2.) Must have good working knowledge in grade control, underground mapping and sampling routine as practiced in an operating gold mine;
3.) Must possess good supervisory and managerial skills;
4.) Must be computer literate.

TWO (2) SR. EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS

Qualifications:

1.) Licensed Geologist;
2.) At least 5 years experience in gold and/or copper exploration;
3.) Adept in geological mapping routines, both direct plotting and GPS - and computer aided techniques;
4.) Experienced in planning and supervision of exploration diamond drilling, and experienced in drill-core logging;
5.) Possess good supervisory and managerial skills;
6.) Computer literate, preferably familiar in using AutoCad and MapInfo;
7.) Report writing ability essential.

TWO (2) JR. MINE GEOLOGIST

Qualifications:

1.) Licensed Geologist;
2.) At least 1 year experience working as underground geologist in an operatiing gold mine;
3.) Knowledge of grade control, geological mapping and sampling routine essential;
4.) Computer literate;
5.) Knowledge in the use of AutoCAD and MapInfo would be preferable.

FOUR (4) JR. GEOLOGIST

Qualifications:

1.) BS Geology graduate;
2.) Preferably licensed but new graduate may apply;
3.) Computer literate;
4.) Knowledge in the use of AutoCAD and/or MapInfo would be preferable.

The positions are site based and successful candidates will be offered a regular employment package including benefits after regularization.

Candidates who meet the criteria above and wish to be considered foe one of the positions may submit a detailed resumé including a photograph by e-mail to ***workexperts@skyinet.net*** (Work Experts & Allied Services, Inc. at Rm. 311 H&C Bldg., Alvarez St., Davao City) by 28 March 2006.

Interviews fo shortlisted candidates will take place in Metro Manila and Davao City on April 2006.

COCKTAIL AND WELCOME PARTY IN HONOR OF BRAUNS

On Feb. 28, a cocktail and welcome party in honor of Reto and Rachel Braun was given by friends and business associates in the Philippines at Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Mr. Braun is the chair of the Earth Council Geneva in Switzerland, an NGO and a strong partner of the United Nations. He is being assisted by lawyer Gao Pronove who is the executive director of Earth Council E-Learning in Geneva and the founder of Godiva Inc (www.godiva.net) and Eco Market Solutions (www.ecomarketsolutions.com) in the Philippines. Shown are (from left): Hernando Vitas, CEO and chairman of the board of trustees of the Providence-Vitas Foundation Inc, his wife Tita Vitas, Rachel Braun, chair Reto Braun and lawyer Gao Pronove.

WELCOME
END OF PROJECT PRESENTATION
A COMMUNITY-BASED TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROG. in Children
FEB. 2, 2006 9-12 N.N.
PLAYERS AND PLATTERS

CONCERNED GROUPS JOIN HANDS TO ERADICATE TB IN CHILDREN

Childhood tuberculosis is both a national and international concern. In the Philippines, medical specialty associations like the Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association (Papa) and Pediatrica Inc's Defeat Childhood TB Movement together with the Department of Health (DOH), local government units and the POTTS Foundation have joined hands to eradicate this scourge on children. The first bold step towards this goal was launched last year with a pilot childhood TB control program in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and Mabalacat, Pampanga. Spearheaded by Papa with the cooperation of Pediatrica Inc and other agencies, the program successfully validated the Pilot National Guidelines in the detection and treatment of childhood tuberculosis. A third community-based anti-TB project was recently concluded in Floridablanca, Pampanga. To date, as a result of these projects, the Secretary of the Department of Health has signed Administrative Order 178 establishing a TB Control Program for children 0-9 years old. Present during the End of Project presentation of Floridablanca (seated from left) Dr. Cleotilde How, Dr. Rosalia Buzon, Floridablanca Councilor and Commission on Health and Sanitation chairperson Carlos Mallari, Dr. Celine Garfin (DOH), Dr Jocelyn Franco (Papa president), Dr. Amelia Fernandez, Dr Anita Flores, Dr. Anne Tolentino (MHO, Mabalacat), (standing) Dr. Felipe Cuyugan (MHO, Floridablanca), nurses and midwives of Floridablanca, Dr. Rebecca Tolentino, Dr. Benjamin Sablan (Papa) and friends from Pediatrica.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
Ilagan

Office of the Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids and Awards Committee, is inviting interested exclusive distributors and/or suppliers in the pre-eligibility activity and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the procurement of reconditioned dump trucks and heavy equipment on a lot-basis.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

Availability of Bid Documents	March 24-29, 2006, excluding Saturday and Sunday, 8AM to 5PM at the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela.
Pre-Bid Conference	March 30, 2006 at 10 AM, Governor's Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	April 11, 2006 at 9.30 AM, BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela
Opening of Bids	April 11, 2006 at 10:00 AM, Governor's Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela
Approved Budget Contract	Php 34.150-Million

Complete set of bid proposals/forms may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela upon payment of non-refundable bidding fee of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (Php 10,000.00) at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal has been evaluated by the BAC as the most advantageous. The Provincial Goverment assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. Neither does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd) **MA. THERESA ARANETA-FLORES**
Provincial Administrator and
BAC Chairperson

(PDI—March 18 & 23, 2006)

ProductFILES

Spalding - not just a ball

SPALDING
USA SINCE 1876
SPALDING

SPALDING, A LEADER of innovation and quality in the sporting goods category and long known for its dominance in basketball, is introducing its latest product innovation. You've seen Spalding in the National Basketball Association (NBA), Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) and Arena Football League (AFL). Now, Spalding is not just a ball. Grab the latest designs of Spalding t-shirts, jerseys, muscle shirts, shorts and footwear at your favorite sports shops. Spalding is available at Planet Sports, The Athlete's Foot, Sports Warehouse and department stores nationwide.

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on cash or term basis (minimum 30% down payment and 16% interest rate per annum, maximum of 7 years to pay):

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum / Floor Price
06-13	Block Making Machine	Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	P 865,224.29
06-14	278,369 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Sulpok, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-15	188,351 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Malaking Pulo, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-16	106,073 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Dona Jacoba, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-17	35,138 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Suplang, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-18	450,000 sqm raw land with DAR Conversion	Bgy Batas, Silang, Cavite (beside Riviera Golf & Sports Club)	P 800.00 / sqm
06-19	450,162 sqm raw land with DAR Conversion	Bgy Batas, Silang, Cavite (beside Riviera Golf & Sports Club)	P 800.00 / sqm
06-20	132,189 sqm residential raw land	Bgy Mapalad, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija (near Fort Magsaysay)	P 400 / sqm
06-21	17,996 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-22	2,584 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-23	5,065 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P. 17,000.00 / sqm
06-24	6,465 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-25	2,291 sqm commercial lot (not contiguous)	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 15,000.00 / sqm

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting March 20, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Office of the Head, Property Management, 3/F, RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

A Pre-Bidding Conference is scheduled on March 24, 2006 at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on April 5, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249

(PDI – March 17, 18 & 19, 2006)

Summer Chic at Rockwell Vintage Bazaar

AT ROCKWELL'S VINTAGE Bazaar, Summer Chic is in. Drop by The Rockwell Tent and shop-till-you-drop at the Vintage Bazaar on March 18 to 19. There's Risque and Twinkle Ferraren for swim wear and apparel by Ilaya, Lots Botique, Vintage Polka, Marni's Room, Tonic, I Love You, Analog Soul, Bottoms Up, Ruth & Esther, Closet Raiders, Trip, Debbie Co and Kate Torralba. Your tootsies would want a little loving, too. Find the right footwear at Sapato Manila/Coco Tres Manila and Charcoal. Remember to find the right bags by Renee Barretto to suit your mood. Now you've got the basics down to pat, it's time to accessorize. Whatever it is you're looking for, you're bound to find at Clara Creates, Murano Glass Jewelry, D'licious, Kathang Kamay, Oleic, Irene's Closet, Chic finds, and Rainstorm. Mark the dates on your calendar - March 18 to 19, 2006. It's all about sun, sand and shopping at Rockwell's Summer Chic Vintage Bazaar!

'I will bless you and make your name great; and
you shall be a blessing." *Genesis 12:2*

LEONARDO DE SILVA UMALE

Now rests in the infinite warmth of our Lord.
He joined our Creator on March 16, 2000 at the age of 58.

His wife,
CLARISSA
Children,
CATHERINE
JOHN
JOJO
TIN-TIN
GUITA
MICHELLE
Mother,
FELISSA
Grandchildren,
DANIELLE, MARCUS, TIFFANY
LEONARD, JUSTIN, CAMILLE, DARYLL
Sisters,
CHIT, FE, MELLY, LOU, JULIE and ELLEN

request relatives and friends to join them in prayers for his eternal repose.
His remains now lie in state at the Umale residence.
Holy Mass will be offered at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Pasig
on Sunday, March 19, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The Project entitled "Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project" funded by the World Bank is in urgent need of qualified applicants to occupy the post of:

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

Duty Station : ARCDP2-DAR Central Office in Quezon City

Duties and Responsibilities : The position entails the provision of advice and performance of technical and capacity-building services to ensure compliance by all stakeholders with the environmental safeguards policy of the Project. The Environmental Specialist will report directly to the Chief of Sub-Project Appraisal Unit and work closely with all CPO professional staff as well as maintain contact with both public and private sector agencies involved in development activities to ensure the flow of up-to-date information which would be necessary to guarantee compliance by the LGUs and other implementers with the environmental safeguards prescribed by the World Bank.

Specifically, he/she will be tasked to:

1. Update the Implementation Manual on Environmental Safeguards of the Project as needed;
2. Ensure that the project environmental assessment guidelines as approved by the World Bank are complied with by the Local Government Units (LGUs) and NIA;
3. Prepare the practical sector guidelines for LGUs on the environmental requirements to secure relevant environmental clearances and permits;
4. Coordinate with the EMB of DENR Regional Offices on emerging guidelines that will affect the LGUs. This includes participation to technical working group and public/private dialogues, organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
5. Develop and implement a rapid monitoring system to ensure that the environmental management plans of each sub-project are properly implemented and submit or cause to submit monitoring reports to jurisdictional DENR Regional Offices consistent with the latter's reporting requirements;
6. Participate in the technical conferences between DENR and LGUs/ National Irrigation Administration (NIA)/ in cases of non-compliance by LGU/NIA to environmental requirements, standards and laws;
7. Conduct inspection and submit periodic field reports on environmental impacts of sub-projects;
8. Identify environmental problems during implementation of sub-projects and assist LGUs and NIA resolve such problems;
9. Investigate complaints and reports of malpractices relative to environmental issues and submit reports and recommendation for actions of the Chief Technical Advisor; and
10. Perform other duties the Chief Technical Advisor or Chief of Sub-project Appraisal Unit may assign.

Qualification Requirements: The Environmental Specialist should have relevant college degree in Environmental Science, Environmental Management, Environmental Assessment, at least 5 years experience either as IEE/EIA preparer or reviewer or as Environmental Officer. Knowledge on World Bank environmental safeguards requirements would be an advantage.

Interested applicants must submit their application letter, comprehensive resumé with photocopy of diploma and recent 2x2 photo not later than March 24, 2006.

The Chief Technical Advisor
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project
FAFsO Annex Building, DAR Compound
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

(Sgd.) ADELBERTO B. BANIQUED

(PDI - March 18, 2006)

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

---

Republic of the Philippines
DON HONORIO VENTURA COLLEGE of ARTS and TRADES
Bacolor, Pampanga

NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR COLLEGE PRESIDENT

The Board of Trustees of the DON HONORIO VENTURA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES (DHVCAT) Bacolor, Pampanga formally and publicly announces the Search for COLLEGE PRESIDENT per Board Resolution No. 2, s. 2006 dated February 8, 2006.

The minimum qualifications for the position are as follows:

1. must be a Filipino citizen
2. preferably a holder of doctoral degree
3. preferably between 35 to 61 years old
4. must be morally upright
5. with recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe/industry
6. with at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with the following:

1. Detailed curriculum vitae and certified supporting documents;
2. Proposed Four Year Development Plan for the College consistent with the Vision, Mission and Thrusts of the College;
3. Results of neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any government physician or any accredited health institution;
4. Medical Certificate from a government physician;
5. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance;
6. Ombudsman Clearance;
7. Civil Service Commission Clearance/Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer / or previous employer; and
8. Certification of not being convicted in any administrative or criminal cases.

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit five (5) sets of documents in sealed envelopes to Ms. Evangeline S. Bondoc, Board Secretary, Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trades, Bacolor, Pampanga on or before April 3, 2006.

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

MEDICAL PROMOTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

- Single, female, 20 to 25 years of age
- At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality
- College graduate, good communication skills

Bring resumé with 2x2 picture, transcript of record,
NBI clearance to:
#151 San Francisco St., Brgy Plainview, Mandaluyong City
☎ 532-5401; 532-5413; 534-4114

Employers tackle Avian flu

WORRIED OVER THE CONTINUING THREAT OF AVIAN INFLUENZA TO human health and the impact of the rapidly spreading virus to operations of business and organizations, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) is conducting a forum to prepare firms "for the worst case of pandemic." Held on March 16 at the RCBC Plaza, the forum on Avian Flu: How Would Business Cope?, focused on "strategies to be put in place for businesses to minimize the effect of avian influenza to its essential activities and its spread of infection," ECOP president Rene Y. Soriano emphasized. The main resource person of the forum is Dr. John Pournoor who leads the 3M Avian Flu Public Health Solutions Program in the United States and who has been involved in solutions on drug delivery, asepsis, biological detection, infection control, epidemiology and emergency preparedness and response.

PERFECT LOGISTICS PHILS. INC
70 Marcos H-way Cainta Rizal (beside San Benildo School)
MAZDA VAN - P 195,000.00
and Others
Special Arrangements for
SEAMAN, PILOT, OFW & BALIKBAYAN
Retirees & Call Center Employees
With One (1) Year Warranty in Conversion
Financing Available
We Accept Credit Card Payment
0917-8579153 / 0920-6911125
0916-2069813 / 0918-5886075
(02) 249 - 1818 / 249 - 1831
MEGA SALE !!!
NEW ARRIVAL EVERY WEEK
ALL UNITS ARE GUARANTEED FRESH IMPORT

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, STD, HERPES
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
Painless, Bloodless
SKIN DISEASES
ALLERGIES RE-CURRENT
UTI, ALMORANAS,
ERECTION PROBLEMS
INFERTILITY/IMPOTENCE
MOLE/CYST/SCAR REMOVAL
KELOID/PAP SMEAR
COMPLETE LABORATORY
Garma Bldg., No. 8 Purdue St.,
Cubao, Q.C.
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM MON. to SAT.
TEL. NOS. 4392706
4373898/9139474

Available thru Pag-IBIG & Installment!

Casimiro
Baytown Village
Habay, Bacoor Cavite

For as Low as P10,636 a month
871-3582 • 872-9982 • 874-0486 • 805-2310 • 827-2309
Developed by Casimiro Development Corporation www.casimirodev.com
Marketing Manager Forte Realty Corporation www.forterealty.com
HLURB LTS No 03208 - R4A - 03 - 08

Villa Feliza
Homes
Alabang Zapote Road,
Pamplona, Las Pinas City

Developer
Casimiro Development Corporation
www.casimirodev.com
Marketing Manager:
FORTE REALTY CORPORATION
Call us:
•872-9982 •805-2310
•871-8318 •810-6960

For Sale: COFFEE SHOP/ RESTO P850k.
Negotiable, Lock Stock
& Barrel, good interiors G/F Condotel,
Greenhills, w/in stretch of hi-end condos.
Call Lito 0917-8865275
Tonette 0917-8504999

4sale 2br
Mkt Tuscany
0917-3006474

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Wider Read Classifieds
More Classified Ads on pages A2-25, B5 & B8

The Board of Directors,
The Management & Staff of

MASCHINEN & TECHNIK, INC. (MATEC)
&
COUTINHO CARO INTERNATIONAL & CO.
MUNCHMEYER PETERSEN GROUP OF
COMPANIES (HAMBURG)

Condole & share with the family

the loss of

HANS D. BANZHAF

(06 July 1939 – 16 March 2006)

Former Vice-President for Energy and who served the company for 20 years. His colleagues will surely miss "HDB" (as he is fondly called) and the mutual love and respect caringly spent together during his stay with MATEC.

---

†

HANS D. BANZHAF

06 July 1939 – 16 March 2006

Du wirst uns sehr fehlen.

Deine Freunde

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day."
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8

The management and staff of

AstraZeneca

Condole with the family of

Paul Gerard A. Benoza

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 14, 2006.

Paul worked for AstraZeneca Philippines for 10 years. He was an achiever whose hardwork, good-natured demeanor and high work ethics endeared him to his friends and colleagues. His gentle manners stemmed from having been loved profusely by people he cared for. Paul will be remembered as a man of great faith and one who had a deep love for his family especially his mother, **Lyn**, and wife, **Jan**.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Sunday, March 19, 2006 at the Manila South Cemetery after the 1:00pm mass..

We extend our sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones and join the pious readers in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO

Let our Funeral Home & Crematory ease your burden

•Elegant & Spacious Chapels •US-made Caskets •Catered Meals •Flowers by Holland Blooms •Imported Registry Books & Thank You Cards •Personalized Guest Information Cards •Horse-drawn Hearse or Cadillac De Ville Hearse •Obituary Ads

845-2440 • 845-2334 to 38

EDITA CACANINDIN BAÑARES

of Aringay, La Union and San Andres, Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator
on March 16, 2006 at the age of 74.

Her loving husband Onesimo (†); children & children-in-law Ruth and Vic, Ruby and Mario, Ruben, Rose, Rodel; grandchildren Carmela, Leandro and Daniel; Katrine, Mario Jr., Jeremiah, Leonila Editha and Gerone; Karla; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her soul's eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be on March 19, 2006 (Sunday) at 9:00 a.m. at The Heritage Park Crematory, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."
—John 3:16

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

HEAD OFFICE: 897-8808 loc. 514, 516, 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO: 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW: 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL: 635-0219; 635-0220

We design **obituaries** for free.

THE OFFICERS and STAFF OF
BJS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Condole with the family of its Director

Hans Dieter Banzhaf

Who passed away in the
Grace of our Lord on March 16, 2006.

He will be missed by all of us
who had the privilege of working with him.

We extend our condolences to
his family and loved ones and join
the pious readers in praying for
the eternal repose of his soul.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the
St. Isidore The Farmer Parish
will be appreciated.

Hans Dieter Banzhaf

July 06, 1939 – March 16, 2006

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 66.

His loving wife **Jane**; children **Pipo** and **Lynn delos Santos, Tina** and **Gerry de Jesus, Dada** and **Jones Lanza** & **Yammy**; grandchildren **Max, Georgia** & **Olivia**; sister **Anne Marie** & **Michael Bittenbinder**; brothers-in-law **Shorty** and **Lita Server, Fritz** and **Chiqui Server**; nephews & nieces, grandnephews & nieces; other relatives and friends, request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His ashes lie in state at #302 Ma. Cristina St., Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the St. Isidore The Farmer Parish will be appreciated.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith

(2 Timothy 4)

We remember our loved one to have lived his
Life according to these lines:

"I expect to pass this world but once
Any good thing therefore that I can do,
or any kindness I can show to my fellowmen
Let me do it now
Let me not defer or neglect it
For I shall not pass this way again"

In Loving Memory
on the 23rd Death Anniversary of

CONRADO C. ALCANTARA

who passed away on March 19, 1983

The Holy Mass will be offered for the
eternal repose of his soul at the following:

Laz Terrazas Maa, Davao City	9:00 a.m.
San Roque Parish Church, Cabrera St., Pasay City	6:00 a.m.
San Rafael Parish Park Ave., Pasay City	6:30 a.m.
Our Mother of Perpertual Help, Baclaran, Pasay City	7:30 a.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Makati	6:00 p.m.
San Juan Nepomuceno Parish, Pasay City	6:00 p.m.
Sta. Clara Parish, P. Burgos, Pasay City	6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes, Makati	6:00 p.m.
St. Jude Parish, Malvar Street, Davao City	5:30 a.m.
Carmelite Monastery Church, Lanang, Davao City	7:00 a.m.
Assumption Church, F. Torres St., Davao City	8:00 a.m.
San Pedro Cathedral, San Pedro St., Davao City	12:00 n.n.
San Isidro Labrador Chapel, Sto. Niño Talaingod, Davao del Norte	3:00 p.m.
Redemptorist Church, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City	4:30 p.m.
Sta. Ana Church, Sta. Ana Avenue, Davao City	5:45 p.m.
San Pablo Parish, Matina, Davao City	6:00 p.m.
San Roque Parish Church, Kiwalan, Iligan City	6:00 a.m.
Lugait Parish Church, Lugait Misamis Oriental	7:00 a.m.
March 17	
Immaculate Conception Chapel, Maribulan Alabel, Sarangani Province	4:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors and members of the

German Club
Manila
1906

mourn the death of their honorary member

Hans D. Banzhaf

who passed away after a long sickness
on 16 March 2006
at the age of 66..

He has been a member of the German Club
since October 1967.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

Move in to marital bliss

Between keeping up with the frenzied pace of the metropolis and keeping up with each other, modern couples sometimes find themselves facing challenges that traditional wisdom can't understand.

That's because modern issues need modern solutions.

And that's what Community Innovations is all about. After the resounding success of The Columns Ayala Avenue, another set of Columns is rising in the heart of exciting Legazpi Village. With the introduction of loft and bi-level units, The Columns Legazpi Village not only redefines what it means to live in the city, it also promises to shed new light on how you can spend your life together with your partner. With the Makati Central Business District practically next door and Greenbelt within walking distance, you can easily touch base with a quick lunch together or even relive your first date at the drop of a hat. What's more is that whether you're going to the gym, going on a food trip, bargain hunting, or even just doing the laundry, any moment can be a shared memory with the array of amenities within The Columns itself and the various shops and other treasures hidden in the quaint nooks and crannies of Legazpi Village. At The Columns Legazpi Village, a better life, like everything else, is within a few steps.

THE COLUMNS
Legazpi Village

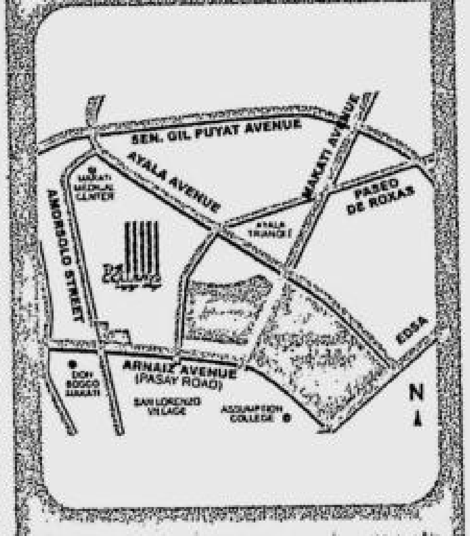
For more information,
call 888-0000,
email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph,
or visit
www.communityinnovations.com.ph.
Model units are available for
viewing at the 3rd level, Glorietta 3,
Ayala Center, everyday from
10 am to 8 pm (Sunday to Thursday),
10 am to 9 pm (Friday and Saturday).

Community Innovations is an
Ayala Land company that caters
to urban achievers. It builds
balanced, harmonious
communities with a sense of fun,
where the living experience
enhances the lifestyles and
fulfills the aspirations of
its customers.

Community Innovations
Live the life you deserve
an AyalaLand company

Shower your partner in the greater luxury [illegible] your time [illegible] instead of spending [illegible] hours a day driving home [illegible] Makati.

The new Columns in Legazpi Village is moments from your office and surrounds you with the delights of Greenbelt and other intimate treasures of the city.

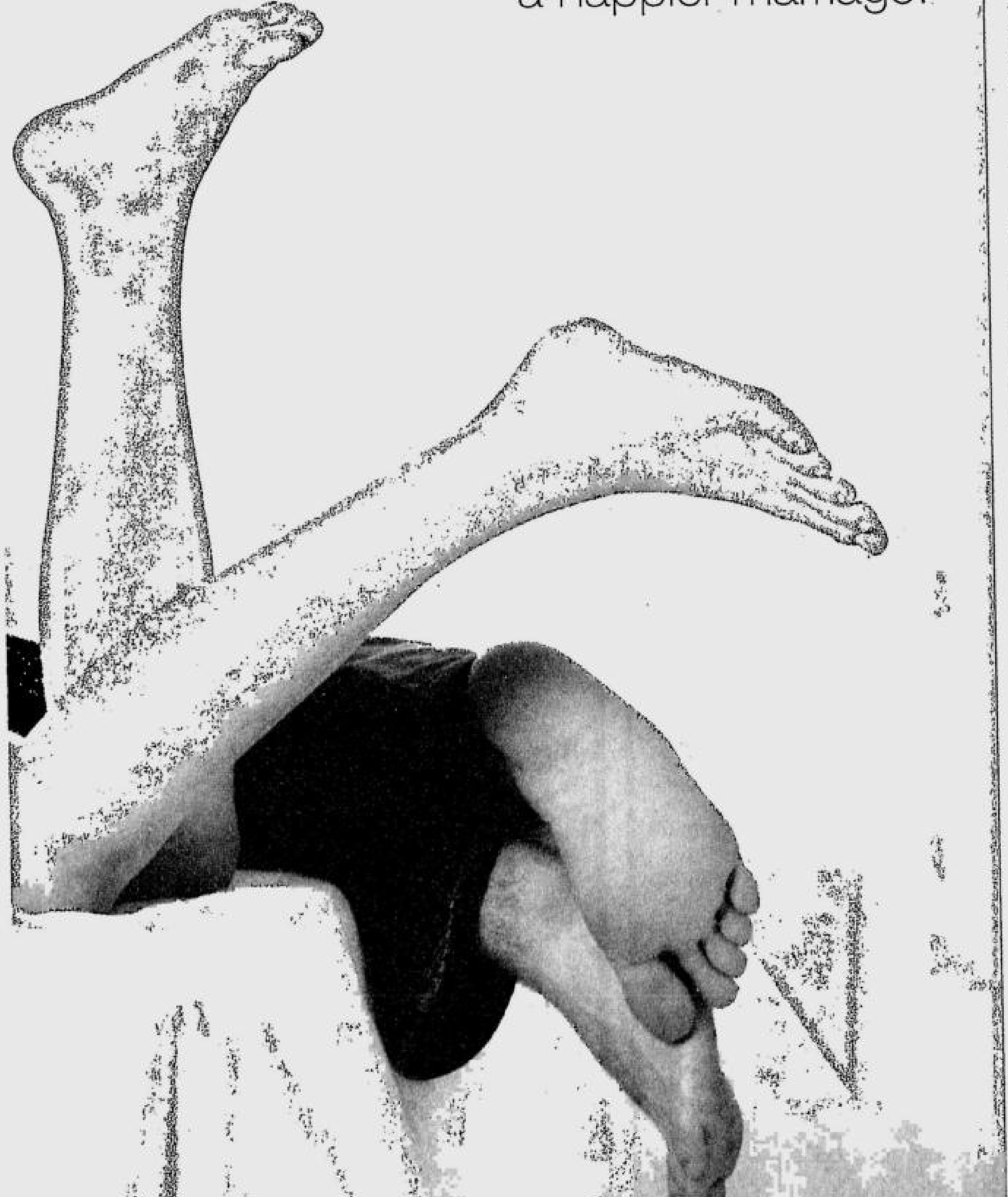


[illegible] Pick up the phone and call our hotline.

[illegible] Ask about The Columns Legazpi Village.

OPEN HOUSE on
March 18 & 19

Live at the
new Columns Legazpi Village
and be a few steps from
a happier marriage.



THE COLUMNS
Legazpi Village
Live a few steps from everything.

HLURB License to Sell No. 13551 www.communityinnovations.com.ph | Call: (632) 888-0000 | cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph

BSP allows banks to develop property

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS allowed banks to develop idle property assets in joint venture with real estate companies.

The new circular issued by the BSP will cover real property assets acquired either through foreclosure or as payment in kind to settle borrowers' loans and other advances.

The circular also covers pieces of property acquired following mergers or consolidations with other financial institutions.

"The decision of the Monetary Board (the BSP's policy-making body) was prompted by its desire to encourage and help banks dispose of their holdings of non-performing assets," the BSP said.

To prevent abuse, joint venture agreement between banks and property companies will be subject to the following restrictions:

- Any deal must get prior MB approval;
- Banks' contribution shall be limited to ROPOAs and properties acquired as a consequence of mergers/consolidation which are no longer necessary in their operations;
- Banks are prohibited from providing funds to the joint venture either as a loan or capital contribution; and,
- Banks are not allowed to recognize income out of the properties it contributed to the joint venture regardless of the agreed valuation of properties in the JVA.

Banks will only be allowed to recognize income upon receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the developed properties.

The real estate may be developed for immediate sale or conversion into earning assets.

BSP figures showed that the banking system has about P221 billion in idle real estate assets as of the end of last year.

To further ease the burden of ROPOAs on the operations of banks, the BSP also authorized banks to invest in the equities of companies engaged in real estate development.

"The BSP hopes that the initiative to allow banks to enter into JVAs with real estate development companies and to invest in the equities of said companies will provide banks with effective means of reducing their nonperforming assets," the BSP said.

ISM raises stake in ETPI

By Daxim L. Lucas

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FIRM ISM Communications Inc. has increased its stake in one of the country's oldest telecommunications companies, further paving the way for its sister firm to enter the highly competitive mobile phone business.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ISM said it has completed acquiring a 40-percent stake in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (ETPI).

The stake was bought from Australian Gigahertz Network International Pty. Ltd. for P8.2 million.

After the acquisition, ISM now officially owns 57.7 percent of EPTI.

With the purchase, ISM president Eric O. Recto predicted that Connectivity Unlimited Resources Enterprise Inc. (CURE)—a start-up 3G mobile phone operator which he also heads—would become the main client of EPTI.

"Cure will be, at some point, one of Eastern's biggest clients for long-distance phone calls," he said in a telephone interview.

Eastern operates an international gateway facility, which is the main system used to link phone calls with the networks of other countries.

Recto said links between CURE and Eastern would be strengthened once the former starts the roll-out and commercial operations of its mobile phone network in the comings months.

In the meantime, Recto said ISM intended to build up EPTI's existing businesses, which include broadband Internet services as well as a small landline telephone operations.

The company's disclosure to the stock exchange added that, after the application, ISM would now "be able to proceed with its application to the Securities and Exchange Commission for an increase in its capital stock as previously approved by shareholders."

Recto explained that the purchase announced yesterday was just a formality, especially since the group of former trade minister Roberto Ongpin—of which he is a part of—has already been in management control of EPTI since last year.

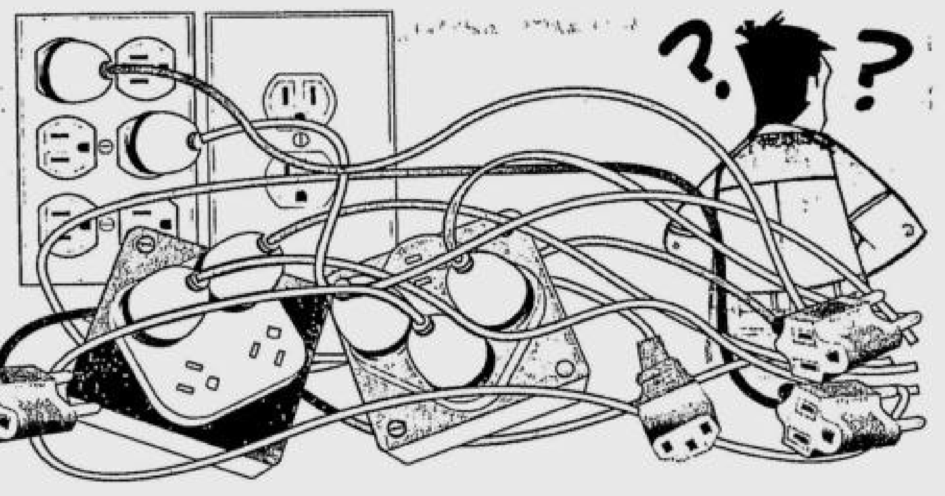
"What this just means is that the money held in escrow in the bank has already been transferred," he said.

The purchase also heads off a potential dispute with telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., whose mobile phone unit earlier claimed to have the right of first refusal over the EPTI shares which were previously owned by Cable and Wireless.

PROPERTY

Fire consumes P24.27-B worth of property from 2000 to 2005

By Tessa R. Salazar



FROM YEAR 2000 TO 2005, there were 53,927 fire calls nationwide—a national average of 29 fire incidents per day.

The total damage of these fires has been estimated at P24.27 billion, an average loss of more than P13.29 million a day, 1,357 deaths and 3,564 injuries.

The Bureau of Fire public information services chief Renato Marshal said the reported figures do not include those losses sustained from cancelled business opportunities resulting to unemployment and environmental degradation.

Appeal

The bureau is appealing to building owners and residents to be more conscious and involved in fire prevention.

Fires are often caused by negligence. Residents of slum areas, where fires have caused more damage during the recorded years, have no proper housekeeping and maintain poor or illegal electrical systems.

Sometimes, fires are caused by pure recklessness. The bureau chief recalled a fire resulting from a couple who had a quarrel and threw oil lamps at each other in anger. That domestic spat was able to the raze the entire slum area where the couple lived. Worse, the flyover that ran directly above the slum area was also damaged by the fire, resulting in the long-term closure of the flyover to vehicular traffic.

Structural fires

From January to December of 2005, there were 4,710 structural fires out of 10,728 recorded fire incidents. The total damage cost was estimated at P3.27 billion.

Other fire incidents involved vehicles or ships (427 incidents); grass, forest or rubbish fire (3,727); chemicals such as oil depots, paint plants (38); other unidentified fire incidents (1,826).

The causes of the fire had been listed as electrical (2,805); bonfires (330); open flame, cooking or lighted candles (2,300), cigarette butts (668); fireworks/explosions (118); flammable liquid (153); LPG tanks or stoves (119); and unknown causes (4,235). Intentional fires numbered 188, accidental fires were recorded at 7,714. Still under investigation are 2,826 incidents.

From January to December 2004, there were 4,762 structural fires out of the 10,157 fire incidents. The total damage was estimated at P3.28 billion. Vehicular fire incidents numbered 433; grass forest fires 2,240; chemical fires at 61; rubbish at 667; and others at 1,994.

Causes of fires were electrical (2,977); combustion heat, bonfire (1,283); open flame cooking (1,787); lit cigarette butts/smoking (294); fireworks (156); flammable liquid (150); LPG tank or stove (264); and unknown causes at 3,246. Intentional fires at this year were recorded at 256, accidental at 7,245, and those still under investigation are 2,656.

Strict

Marshal said that Bureau of Fire has been strict with boarding houses, hotels and other establishments where people reside or gather in large numbers. Such establishments, he said, are where most fire fatalities have been recorded. He cited the Manor Hotel fire in 1996 that killed 70 people, because of lack of safety building requirements. Most of the fatalities here were suffocated.

The Ozone Disco fire in 1996 in Quezon City claimed the lives of 160 people and injured 80 individuals. This fire originated from faulty electrical wiring.

The fire that gutted the Association de Damas de Filipinas Inc. in Paco, Manila, in 1998 killed 27 persons. It was caused by an overheated ceiling fan.

In terms of structural damage, the Baseco Compound fire in Tondo, Manila, in 2004 was one of the most extensive. One unattended lit candle razed 6,000 houses, rendered 12,500 families homeless. About P40-million worth of property went up in smoke.

Marshal said most causes of fires could have been prevented had owners or residents been more vigilant and aware of their appliances, and electrical systems. He added that people should also be more careful of leaving their cell phone chargers in electrical sockets for extended periods of time.

Construction Show Cebu: Making a big mark in RP

By Charles E. Buban

CEBU'S BIGGEST AND longest running annual construction show is opening anew its door in June and this early, the organizer of the 14th Construction Show Cebu is reporting enormous response from potential exhibitors and sponsors from across the country.

"Perhaps it's because of the event's track record," said Lilibeth Ducut-Abais of LA Ducut and Co. (constructionshow@laducut.com), the event's organizer. "After a series of very successful staging, the Construction Show Cebu has established itself as the most-sought-after event by the country's local manufacturers and exclusive distributors of global brands for reaching across to their customers in the Visayas and Mindanao, as well as in other parts of the country.

Abais also cited Hardware Consolidated Inc. (HCI), the organization that has continuously supported the construction show since its inception.

Big hardware firms

"HCI is comprised of some of the big hardware firms and companies operating in Visayas and Mindanao. It should be noted that one of its pioneer-members, Cebu Oversea Hardware, is a part owner of the Ortigas Home Depot and Alabang Home Depot, two major players here in Metro Manila," said Abais.

For the members of HCI as well as the rest of sponsors of the upcoming construction show, Abais said the Cebu event is considered as a cost-effective platform for reaching out to their regional market.

"Even visitors of the event consider the province of Cebu as a favorable location adding that interested parties looking for local distributors in the region will find the Cebu venue a perfect place for its direct access to their prospective distributors," added Abais.

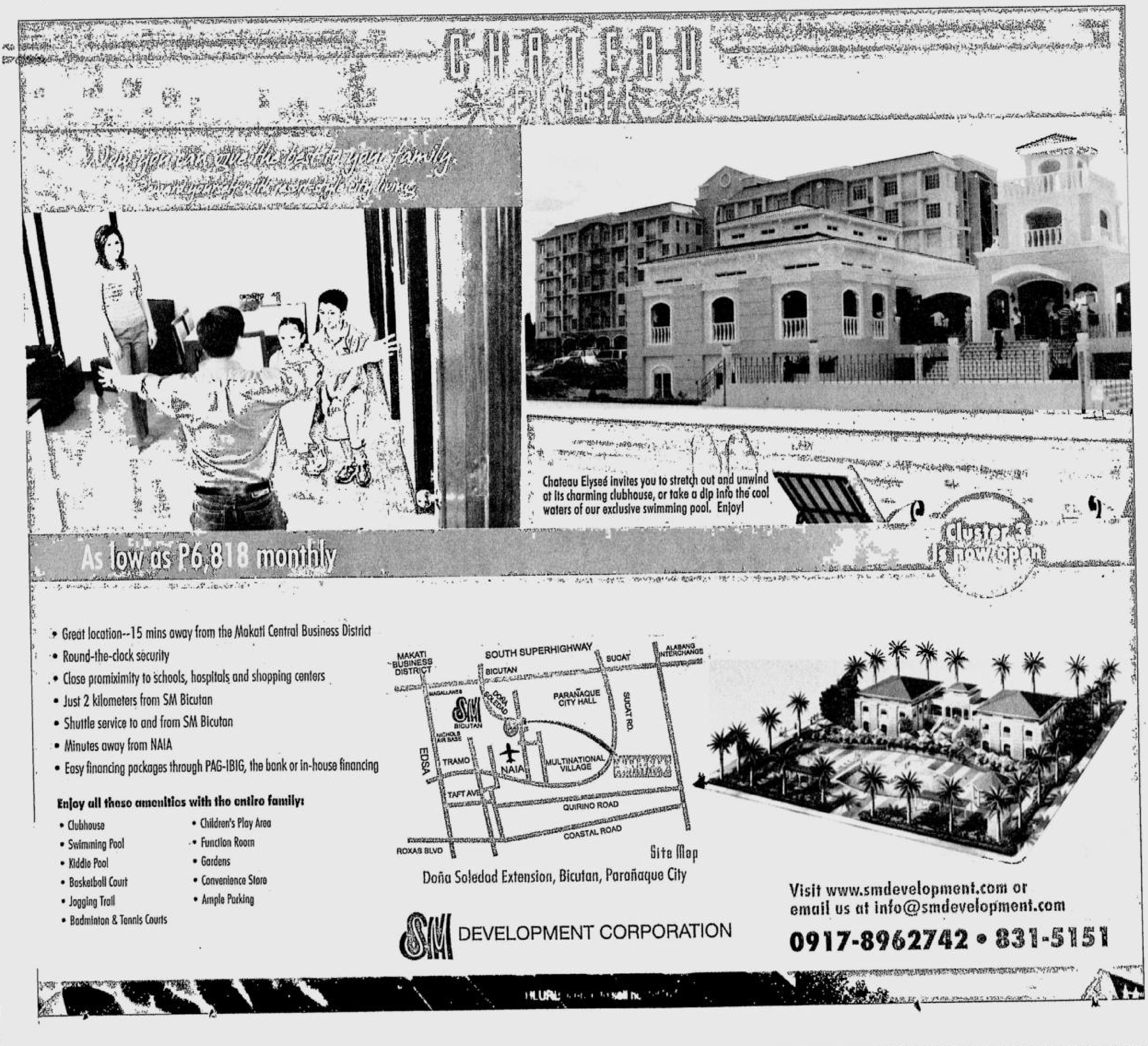
The four-day event will be held at the Cebu Trade Hall located at the third floor of SM City Cebu.

Technology showcase

According to Abais, this year's event promises to showcase several new construction technologies, products and services in the construction industry.

"The 14th Construction Show Cebu is being held at a time when the regional construction market is extremely buoyant. This buoyancy maybe attributed to several positive factors including a strong peso-dollar exchange rate, a booming construction industry, and international investors' increasing confidence," said Abais.

"The consistency of our firm's support to the construction show is unwavering. Even in the midst of the Asian crisis in 1997 and its aftermath in 1998 to 1999, we have pushed through with the event's holding. In fact, for the past 13 years, statistics show that Construction Show Cebu enjoys an average annual growth rate of 25 percent in its visitor traffic," she said.



Chateau Elyseé invites you to stretch out and unwind at its charming clubhouse, or take a dip into the cool waters of our exclusive swimming pool. Enjoy!

- Great location--15 mins away from the Makati Central Business District
- Round-the-clock security
- Close promimixity to schools, hospitals and shopping centers
- Just 2 kilometers from SM Bicutan
- Shuttle service to and from SM Bicutan
- Minutes away from NAIA
- Easy financing packages through PAG-IBIG, the bank or in-house financing

Enjoy all these amenities with the entire family:

- Clubhouse
- Swimming Pool
- Kiddie Pool
- Basketball Court
- Jogging Trail
- Badminton & Tennis Courts
- Children's Play Area
- Function Room
- Gardens
- Convenience Store
- Ample Parking

Doña Soledad Extension, Bicutan, Parañaque City

SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Visit www.smdevelopment.com or email us at info@smdevelopment.com

0917-8962742 • 831-5151

Asian prose

IT IS REWARDING TO FIND OUT THAT JUST a few minutes away from your home, you can easily dip yourself into a refreshing pool, enjoy reading your favorite book lulled by a cool breeze or plan hosting family events at a venue right next to you.

All these you can do as you are surrounded with Asian-inspired architecture of the Recreation Center that is now being enjoyed by the homeowners of Ayala Hillside Estates. This upscale growing community of Ayala Land Inc. is located at Old Balara Quezon City, a vicinity quite unexpected to still have 23 hectares of rolling terrain and fairway views.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

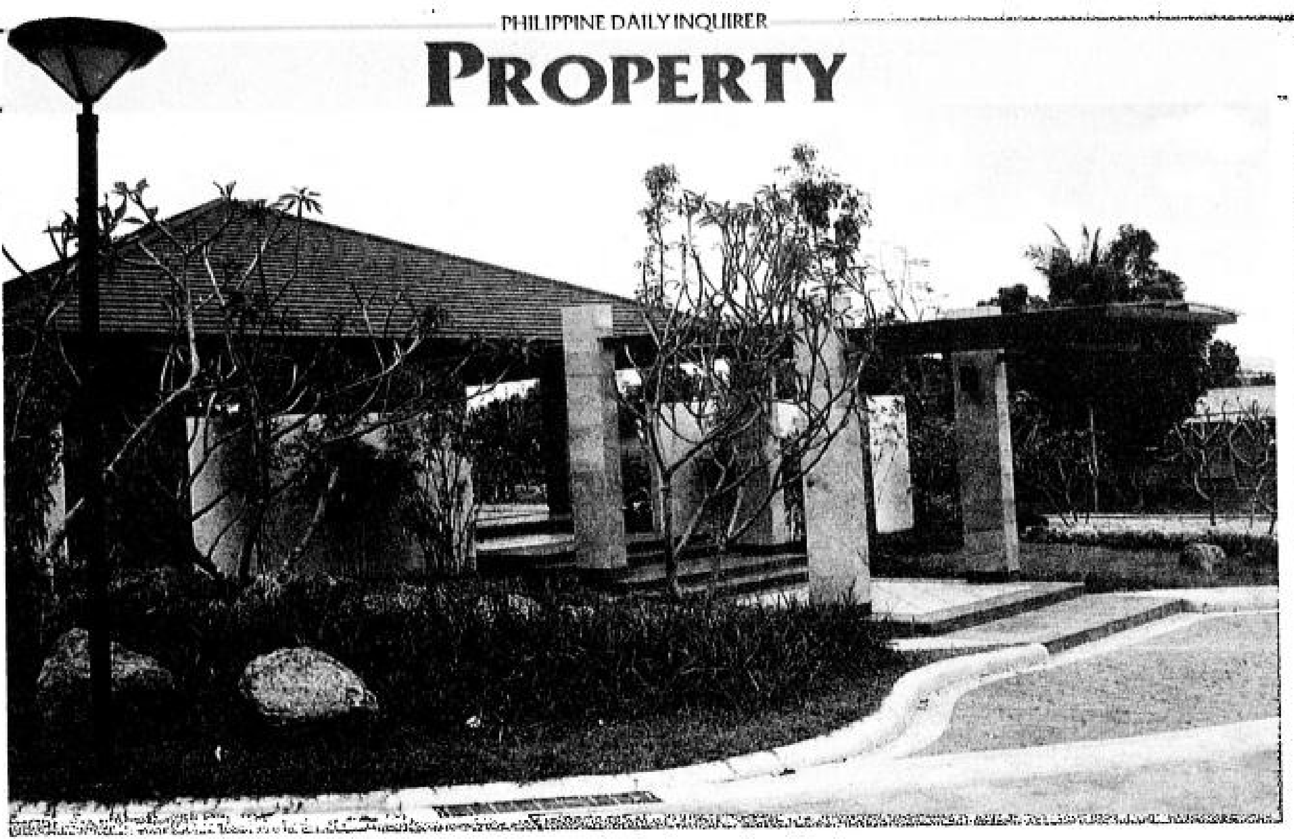
Asian character

The Recreation Center stands in a village park of approximately 3,180 square meters, welcoming every person entering the neighborhood. The Asian character of the structures was composed of the elegance of clean lines and the warmth of the finishes.

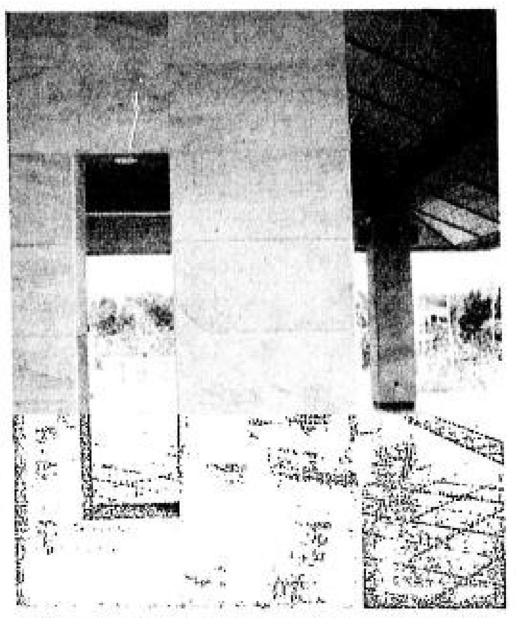
One's attention will easily be drawn by the column and exterior wall cladding finishes made of teakwood, a natural stone that gives off a yellowish hue with surfacing grain patterns that are unique from each other. The structures are capped with dark colored flat concrete roof tiles.

When we designed this project, we were particular in being able to arrive at a perfect proportion of the structures. Identifying a good slope for the roofing was one of the ways. There are no roof gutters and rainwater alight at concealed passages by the ground that is carefully covered with crushed gravel.

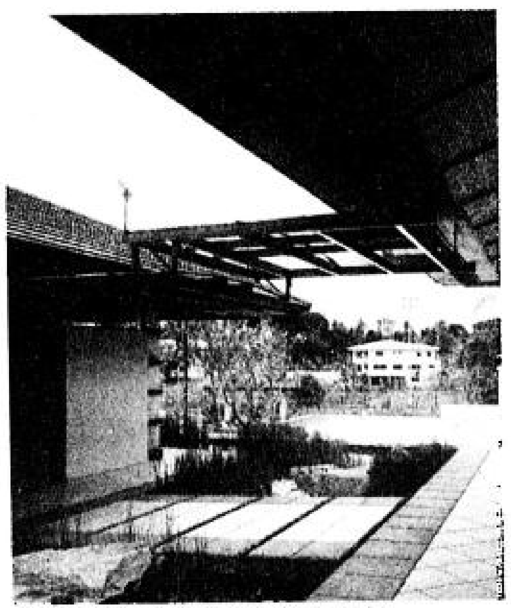
Looking up from the inside the pavilion, one can see reeds cleanly lining up the ceiling. The place is not enclosed by any wall, thereby freely allowing breeze to pass by. One also notices the trellis-covered bridgeways, one leading to the pavilion and another toward the separate structure. These create a feel of crossing the islands of the archipelago.



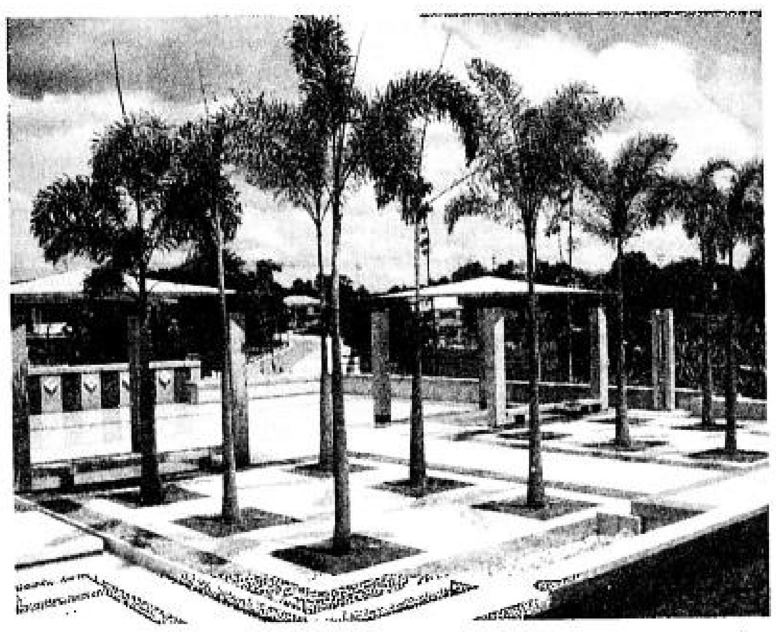
WELCOMING the Ayala Hillside Estates development is the Recreation Center.



THE RECREATION Center is characterized with elegant linear design.



BRIDGEWAY trellis in between the structures



THE PALM court provides breeze both for the Pavilion and the pool.

Fostering a family experience

Many are yet to discover this development designed to foster a family experience which prides itself to be "your own patch of hill and sky within city limits." Not for long, the community will again witness the emergence of another collage of amenities with the upcoming construction of the proposed Social Club which is scheduled to break the grounds of Phase 3b by the middle of this year. While reflecting the same character of the Recreation Center, it rests on a bigger land area of 5,698 square meters.

The homeowners will enjoy another swimming pool, this time curvilinear in design. There will be a multipurpose hall for holding events and across it is the administration office to service the needs of the entire community. The climax is the Social Hall which has a capacity of 200 persons and with outdoor lawn as spillover area. The creativity of the landscape architects of DQA, with my friend Frank Borja, provided generous landscaping that will complete the community's Asian prose.

Creating eden at Portofino

STRETCHING ALONG THE LAS PIÑAS-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road is a 300-hectare property at the cutting edge of masterplanned communities. A masterpiece by maverick real property developer Brittany Corp., the Portofino is a slice of Italian high-life in Manila.

Just 30 minutes away from the central business district of Makati and only five minutes away from the commercial centers of Alabang is this exclusive enclave where the word beautiful cannot even begin to describe the homes. Clusters, rather than rows, of Italian-inspired homes set against lush green gardens paint a stunning picture of a community that is truly like no other. In many ways, Portofino can rightfully claim that it truly is heaven on earth.

Breathless

"It is really so picturesque that I sometimes find myself breathless when I enter the gates. I can immediately tell that I am in a different world," said Brittany Corp. president Jing Serrano.

A world all its own, the Portofino development includes various enclaves: Portofino Heights, Portofino South, Courtyards of Portofino I and II, and Widelots at Portofino. The Italian-inspired architecture features sun-drenched colors, cobblestones, charming arches and a strong sense of openness that only comes with a thorough understanding of light and space.

Among its most important features are the casita where the master of the house can enjoy privacy, and an open area where the family can gather. Various amenities are offered for the pleasure of its residents: a multipurpose clubhouse, pools, courts and other common property development features.

Masters Collection

But far from resting on its laurels, Brittany Corp. continues to capitalize on its trailblazing spirit. Its most recent offering, The Masters Collection, is a testament to the innovative spirit of Brittany Corp. and its commitment to providing the highest standard of living possible. The Masters Collection is as sweet as *la dolce vita* could possibly get.

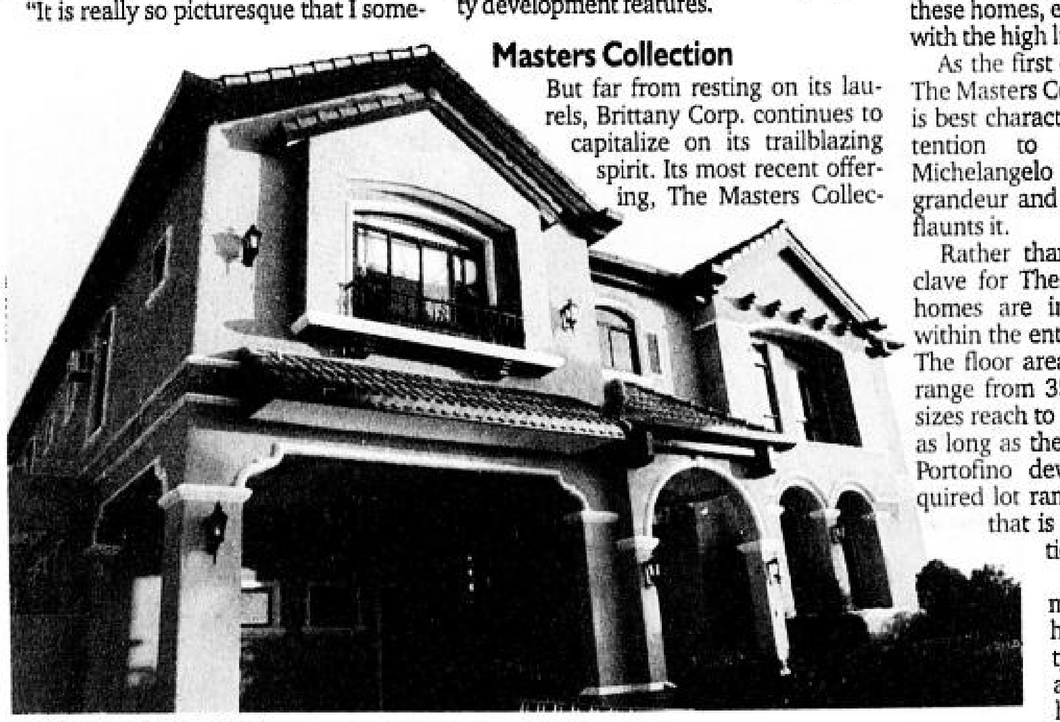
FRONT view of Cezanne

Aptly named after Italian masters of the arts, The Masters Collection includes six new model homes that could only be described as breathtaking in all aspects. Grandeur is in the details. And within these homes, every last element is crafted with the high life in mind.

As the first completed model home of The Masters Collection, the Michelangelo is best characterized by its unceasing attention to every minute feature. Michelangelo is a home that exudes grandeur and sophistication rather than flaunts it.

Rather than creating a separate enclave for The Masters Collection, these homes are intended to be integrated within the entire Portofino development. The floor areas of the six model homes range from 350 sq m to 625 sq m. Lot sizes reach to as much as 1,000 sq m. For as long as the client has a lot within the Portofino development within the required lot range, he can choose a home that is part of the Masters Collection.

"The Portofino development is not just about the homes within the community. More than the beautiful architecture, it is also about how we have master-planned and utilized the space in order to create a unique urban escape," Serrano explained.



MICHELANGELO façade

Comfort zone

"At Brittany Corp., we believe that the environment where we spend significant amount of time in greatly contributes to the kind of person we become. Living in a place where the architecture is beautiful, gardens are constantly in bloom, and spaces are provided to encourage neighbors to talk to each other all contribute to our well-being. It relaxes us, allows us to function better, and gives a feeling of comfort and security. And this, I believe, is the key to the success of Portofino. Within this property, we literally created a comfort zone that nurtures its residents the minute they enter the gates and long after they have returned to the urban jungle," she added.

The entire Portofino development boasts of premium utilities for its residents. To ensure an unobstructed view of the landscape, cables for power and communication were buried underground. Perimeter fences and buffer trees line the boundary lots to ensure security apart from the 24-hour system that safeguards the entire community. Deep wells and water reservoirs ensure a round-the-clock water service. Garbage is collected every other day. Most of all, a professional property management team secures the community and makes sure that the high standards are maintained long after the last lot has been purchased.

The Portofino development includes Portofino Heights, Portofino South, the Courtyards of Portofino, Courtyards II, WideLots of Portofino and The Masters Collection. Brittany Corp. and its properties remain as an investment of choice in real estate development today. More than just a safe investment, it has developed into a wise choice for homeowners with a vision for the future. For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084.

Marquinton's first tower celebrates early completion

MARQUINTON RESIDENCES, MARIKINA's much-awaited premier condominium development, recently celebrated the Barcelona Tower topping off ceremony—marking its early completion in just six months of construction. "This is an important milestone for Federal Land as it stands as another testament to the company's solid commitment to efficient construction and timely delivery of structures," said Ramon Aldaba, Federal Land first vice president for sales.

Barcelona Tower is the first among the cluster of mid-rise residential-commercial condominiums rising in the 20-hectare master-planned community. It is expected to be turned over to unit owners in the last quarter of 2006.

Track record

Federal Land, property arm of the Metrobank Group of companies, has a track record of quality projects built on time and on specification. Fully committed to deliver only the best to its customers, Federal Land's acclaimed portfolio has earned the company a well-deserved reputation for excellence—gaining the trust of its clients and respect of the industry.

Construction of Alicante Tower, the second tower of Marquinton Residences, is also proceeding as planned. It held its first concrete-pouring in December 2005, one month ahead of the original schedule.

Self-contained township

Envisioned to be a self-contained township, Marquinton Residences provides homeowners with a complete and nurtur-

MARQUINTON'S/ B2-3

Chateau Elyseé *Designed For The Good Life*

Living the good life need not be costly. It may simply be a matter of maximizing space, providing generous amenities and wide-open spaces, and still keeping everything within reach of the average Filipino's budget.

At Chateau Elyseé, the initial project of SM Development Corporation, all design details come together to provide a rare experience in affordable luxury. A wealth of amenities makes for unexcelled convenience. The clusters are painted in Mediterranean colors and spaced far apart for better ventialtion and privacy.

Each unit has a three-meter-high ceiling, well above the 2.7-meter regulation height. This creates an airy, cool feel. Each unit is also carefully planned for excellent distribution of space among the living and dining areas, kitchens, and bedrooms.

Model units can be viewed at the site itself, Doña Soledad Avenue Extension, Bicutan, Parañaque City, or at Building A, SM Corporate Offices, 1000 Bay Boulevard, Pasay City. These model units serve as a showcase of how a well-planned interior design can maximize the amount of floor area, and furnish the unit for full visual impact. Planned and executed by well-known interior design outfit Atelier Almario, the model unit designs make use of various themes such as Japanese Zen and Asian Modern.

Whatever the unit owner's preference, there is an interior design plan that speaks eloquently of his taste and preference. In the same way that Chateau Elyseé speaks well of his lifestyle.

Marquinton's first tower celebrates early completion

From page B2-2

ing community. It makes available a host of social, recreational and health facilities: a resort-type swimming pool, clubhouse, multipurpose function room, outdoor children's playground, gym, basketball and tennis courts, courtyard garden and pond, picnic area and bicycle lanes.

Just a jog away is the Blue Wave Mall, a commercial center featuring four top-grade cinemas, superb dining options, performing venues and a myriad of retailers. Marquinton's close proximity to first-rate medical facilities, banks, schools and public transport guarantees its residents that their needs are a stone's throw away.

For more information on Marquinton Residences, simply call 681-0111. Model units are available for viewing at the corner of Sumulong Hi-way and Fernando Avenue (next to Toyota showroom).

Your Total Solution To Any Waterproofing Problem

FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements

SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures

FLEXROOF
Elastomeric Roof Paint
Gloss waterproof roof paint specially made to waterproof and finish most type of roofings

From the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc.
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVENUE, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. # 252-0531
AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

UNEQUALLED PERFORMANCE
macnell
architectural paints

ACRE COAT
Coats like no other, for that 100% waterproof finish. The perfect blend of strength and aesthetics.

MACNELL AQUASEAL
A new generation of waterproofing technology that provides protection from destructive effects of water seepage.

ACRYL-MEL
Provides excellent hiding power and easy brushing.

ACRE CAST
Specially formulated to provide ultimate surface protection. Washable texture.

ACRE LAX
Combines the advantage of acrylic latex and emulsion latex.

Eliminates Concrete Seepage
100% Waterproof

Manufactured by
MAYON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
51 JOY CORNER HARMONY STS., GRACE VILLAGE, BALINTAWAK, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA
TELS.: 241-3353 • 364-5731 • 364-4733
241-3159 • 364-7135 • 364-6345

THE SMART CHOICE IN LAMINATE & POLYCARBONATE
SONNENBLÖCK®
SUPER POLYCARBONATE SHEET
For Skylight Roofing
POLIART®
BACTERIOSTATIC LAMINATES
e-laminati®
D ECONOMICAL LAMINATES
ABC®
WHITE BOARD LAMINATES
Quscar®
DECORATIVE PANELS
Call for your FREE SAMPLE BROCHURE
MULTI-GLOBAL MARKETING
403-D Union Bldg Shaw Blvd Mandaluyong City
Tels. 725-5118 • 724-6808 TELEFAX 721-4526

From wood,
to metal,
to concrete -
Our Top Gun just got BETTER!
AWARDED Superbrands
Superbrands is a registered trademark
Load it up!
with Globe
SRP ₱3,995
GSB 10 RE
BOSCH

FREE Php 100 Globe prepaid card for every unit purchase of the GSB 10, GSB 10 RE (3/8" Impact drill) or GSB 13 RE (1/2" impact drill) model.

Promo runs from February 15, 2006 to March 31, 2006 in selected hardware stores nationwide.
Per DTI NCR Permit # 0210 Series of 2006

New! The 10mm Impact Drill
GSB 10 RE Professional

BOSCH
Invented for life

PARTICIPATING DEALERS:
All ACE HARDWARE and HARDWARE WORKSHOP branches nationwide. MANILA: BEST ACHIEVERS (02) 733-0787; EVERCON BUILDERS (02) 733-1995; GOLDRICH INDUSTRIAL (02) 242-9356; HAN'S INFINITE (02) 252-6141 to 46; HI-D INDUSTRIAL (02) 241-3870; IRIS COMMERCIAL (02) 733-4629; PANDA CONSTRUCTION (02) 242-6154 to 56. CALOOCAN: AIRTECH INDUSTRIAL (02) 364-0881; CROWNMILL SUPPLY (02) 364-2680; GOLD TIGER (02) 361-1091; HARROWS INDUSTRIAL (02) 362-3887; TOOLWIND PARTS & SERVICES (02) 367-6291. QUEZON CITY: AMITY HARDWARE (02)362-7448 to 50; ANONAS CONSTRUCTION (02) 929-2956; ROLIN'S MERCANTILE (02)410-5270. MAKATI: IRWIN HARDWARE (02)833-7978; SURETECH ENTERPRISES (02)884-2338. ANTIPOLO: PORNEL MERCANTILE (02) 249-0847. BATANGAS: ELEGANCIA LUMBER - Lipa (043) 756-2575; GENASCO MARKETING-Batangas City (043) 723-0451. CEBU: CEBU ATLANTIC - Cebu City (032)261-4692; CEBU BELMONT - Mandaue City (032) 346-4268; CEBU BELMONT - Plaridel, Cebu City (032) 254-1454; CEBU HOME BUILDERS - Lapu-lapu City (032) 341-5804 to 05; CEBU HOME BUILDERS - Mandaue City (032) 343-6991; CEBU PAINTERS - Mandaue City (032) 346-2920; COM HARDWARE - Mandaue City (032) 422-7697; CUESAN TRADING - Banilad (032) 345-9130; CUESAN TRADING - Consolacion (032) 564-2482. DUMAGUETE: REJOICE HARDWARE (035) 422-6762. GENERAL SANTOS: SUPREME MERCHANT CORP. (083) 552-2761. TACLOBAN: WASHINGTON TRADING (053) 321-2521.

Robert Bosch Inc. 14th Floor L.V. Locsin Building,
6752 Ayala Avenue cor Makati Avenue, 1226 Makati City.
Tel. Nos. (632) 817-7274 ; Fax: (632) 810-5476

Find Your Place in the Sun
Dream It!
Experience It!
Own It!
Live It!
SUN VALLEY
SUN VALLEY ESTATES
Come Home To Nature.

In the rolling hills of [illegible] community waiting to be [illegible] Sun Valley Estates

Experience the passion for the good life [illegible] relaxing calmness of lush greens and cool crisp air. Let the majestic beauty all-around you inspire you to build your dreams and share it with the ones who truly matter. Come home to the finer things in life in a special place that harmoniously combines city and country living.

Golf Course
A lush carpet of greens spreading over natural rolling hills provide an unmatched golfing experience.

Fishing Lagoon
A nature-friendly community that showcases the pristine beauty of nature with a sprawling lagoon.

Club House
An activity hub equipped with an array of indoor and outdoor facilities that provide hours of fun-filled entertainment for friends and family.

Secure Community
A safe community where one can unwind without a care in the world.

Call us and schedule a tour:
681.8240
633.6191 • 633.4197
637.2928 • 634.8115
636.1673 • 645.8415
0917.5293664
0917.3920141
www.sunvalleyphilippines.com Email: info@sunvalleyphil.com
Sun Valley Estates Brgy. Inarawan, Antipolo City

HLURB License Nos. 06245, 08129, 10461

OneE-comCenter breaks ground at SM Central Business Park

THE GROUNDBREAKING RITE for OneE-comCenter was recently held at the SM Central Business Park.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by SM Investments Corp.'s first EVP Hans Sy, SM Investments Corp.'s vice chair Henry Sy Jr., Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, representatives and children of former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office director Strike Revilla and Philippine Reclamation Authority head executive assistant Andrea Bautista, and CEO/general manager Silvestre Bello III and SM Investments Corp.'s president Jess Lucas.

This new project is right next door to the 381,000-square-meter Mall of Asia which happens to be the biggest shopping mall of the SM Group and was considered as the centerpiece of the SM Central Business Park.

The E-comCenter, which is scheduled for completion by July 2007, is a 94,000-sq-m OneE-comCenter, a 10-story e-commerce building that was designed by international firm Arquitectonica and architect Felix Lim. OneE-comCenter will provide cutting-edge facilities to meet the growing needs of technology-based companies and will be more than just a call center facility plus it will have a total of 67,900 sq m available for lease.

Owing to its strategic location is the One-EcomCenter's ability to tap the grade A market and its being right across the SM corporate headquarters, which is already home to US-based Teletech. And like Teletech, tenants of this E-comCenter will also enjoy tax incentives with an application with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority and companies that will locate at OneE-comCenter will be entitled to investment perks such as a four- or six-year income tax holiday and duty-free importation of equipment and raw materials.

Aside from this project, SMIC will also break ground on a 46,000-sq-m exhibition and convention center by this month which is the Maitrade Expo and Convention Center which will be the country's first privately-run exhibition and convention center as it is expected to cost P900 million. It envisioned to become a favored venue for major conferences and trade exhibits, as well as for other international and local events.

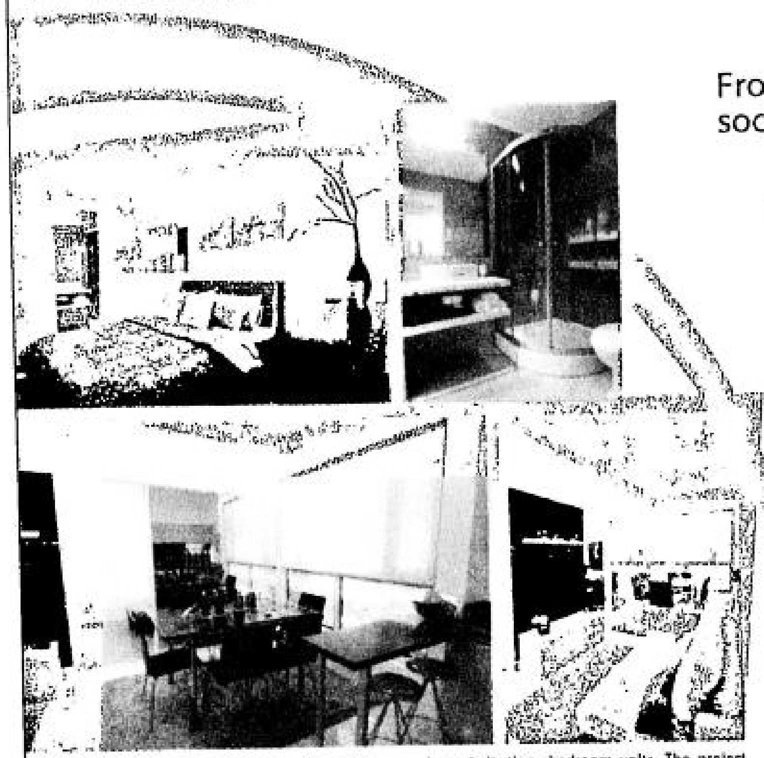
Developments being planned include corporate headquarters for one or two conglomerates, hotels, office and residential clusters, a coliseum for sporting events and entertainment shows as well as a ferry terminal.

OneE-comCenter, Maitrade Expo and Convention Center, and the Mall of Asia are just a prelude to what the SM Central Business Park will become in the future.

Exterminate Termites with the Protection that lasts.
Biflex®
10 TC
THE LONGEST EFFICACY AMONG REGISTERED & APPROVED TERMITICIDE TODAY!
Termites can seriously damage your house; and, worst making you homeless. Don't let termites invade your most precious home! Protect every corner of your house with Biflex soil termiticide. For best result consult the licensed Pest Control Operators nearest you.
STOP TERMITES INVASION!
LEADS Environmental Health
a subsidiary of LEADS AGRI
Unit 1103 Paragon Plaza,
EDSA cor. Reliance St.,
Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 687-9010 • 687-7490
687-7942 • 687-2576
Fax No: 687-0461
E-mail:info@leadsagri.com
fodegala@leadsagri.com
www.leadsagri.com

MEZZA RESIDENCIES: GET A TASTE OF THE GOOD LIFE

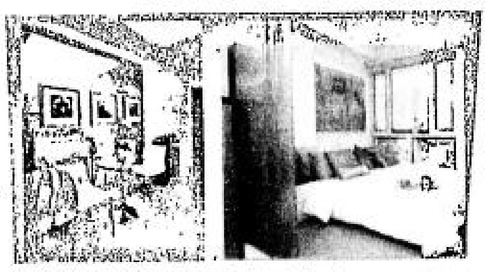
From the country's most respected names in retailing and mall development comes a project that's soon to be a by-word in condominium living—the Mezza Residences.


The Mezza Residences combine comfort with convenience in its three-bedroom units. The project incorporates amenities that satisfy today's lifestyle. Families can have a picnic and play catch with the kids in its sprawling 1,000 square meter lawn, an amenity that sets Mezza Residences apart from the rest.

Situated at Aurora Boulevard corner Araneta and Guirayan Streets in the heart of Quezon City, the impressive Mezza Residences has four 38-storey residential towers. Offering one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom, and suite units with introductory prices ranging from one to five million, Mezza Residences is suited for young professionals yearning for their first taste of independence or starting-out families seeking a place to call home.

"Mezza Residences is metropolis living at its most convenient," shares Julie Jalandoni, Assistant Vice President for Sales and Marketing of SM Development Corporation (SMDC). "Everything one can ever need is right here, thus saving on gas, energy, and precious time. We really had the lifestyle of today's urbanites in mind in developing this project - addressing as many of their living requirements."

Each tower has three high-speed elevators and ample parking. There is a main lobby in each tower and a welcome lobby on each floor as well. An individual laundry drying area for each unit and a centralized garbage collection and disposal system are provided for added convenience.


The Mezza Residences truly finds its hallmark on convenience. But more than just that, SMDC puts this together in a great package with well-planned floor areas and generous open spaces.

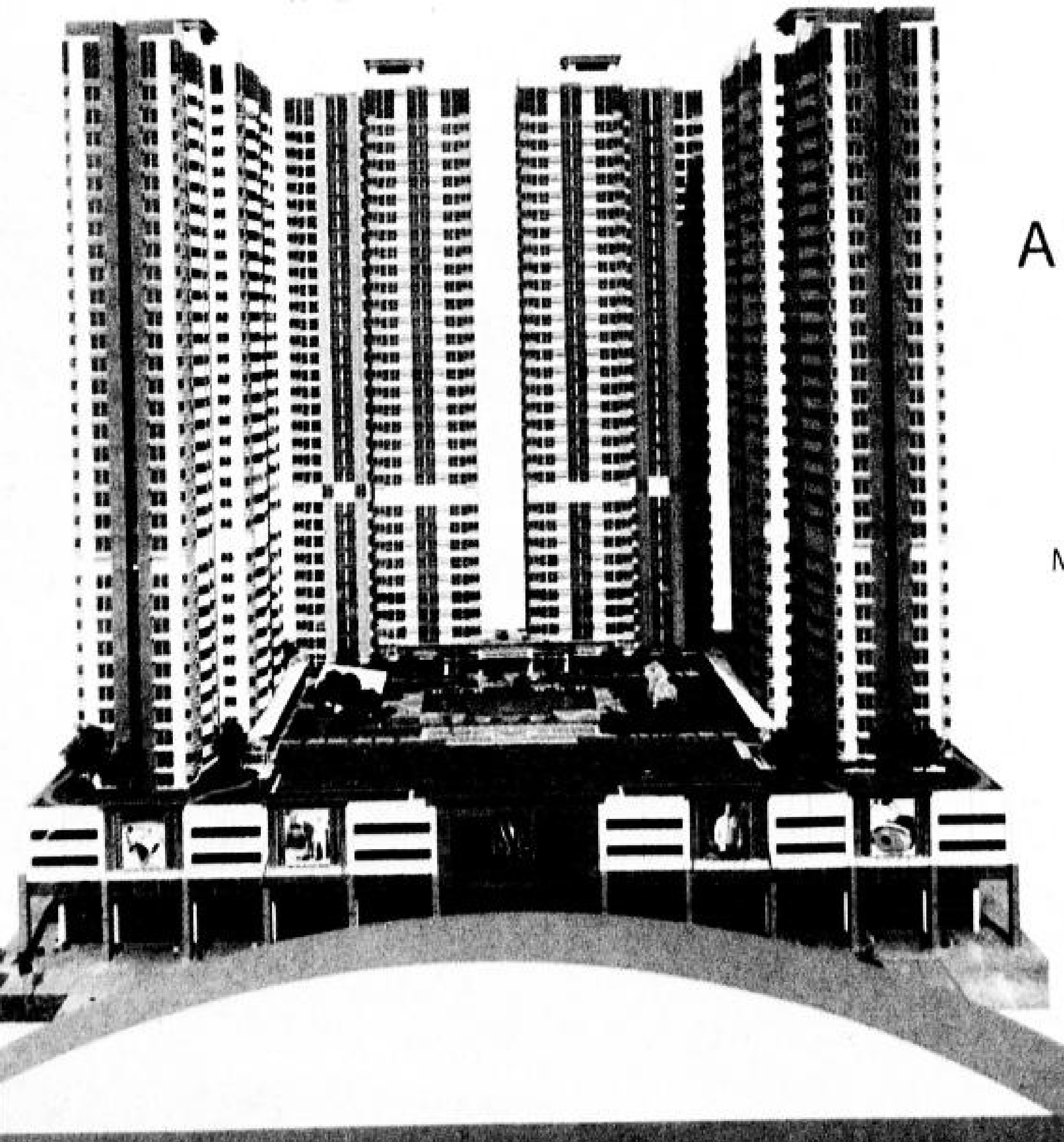
Supported by the SM Group of Companies and Banco de Oro, Mezza Residences allows you to enjoy a wide variety of activities all under one roof. Cafes, service, and retail establishments are conveniently located at the podium at the ground and second level.

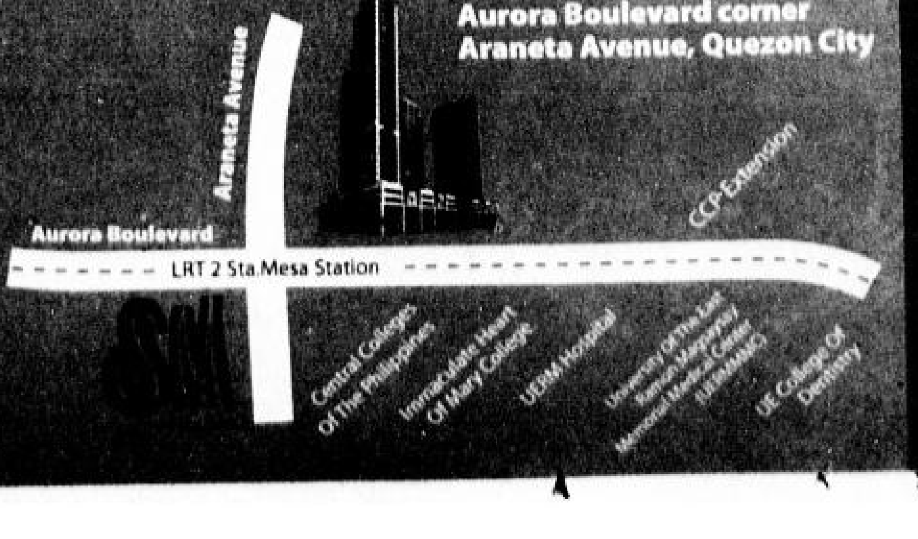
"Everyone can go home and do all their shopping right here. Young urbanites can dine out and have a good time with their friends," adds Jalandoni. "Mezza truly finds its hallmark on convenience.

But more than just that, SMDC puts this together in a great package with well-planned floor areas and generous open spaces." Mezza Residences takes pride in its lush greens. Unique to this project is its sprawling 1,000 square meter lawn—an inviting place where families can have a picnic, play catch with the kids, or take an afternoon nap. Giving importance to healthy living, a Zen-inspired garden with a meditation area and a reflexology path relaxes the mind and spirit of the weariest urban dweller. Kids can soak up the sun in the kiddie pool while adults can stay fit by swimming in the 25-meter lap pool.

Here at Mezza Residences, it's all about living the city life to the fullest.

It is a short distance away from the Central Colleges of the Philippines, the Immaculate Heart of Mary College, the UERM Hospital, the UERM Memorial Medical Center, the LRT 2 Sta. Mesa Station, and the bustling Araneta area. Everything indeed is within your reach. The Mezza Residences is a project of the SMDC. For inquiries, call 831-51-51 or 0918-888-1203. Log on to the SMDC website at www.smdevelopment.com. Model units are available for viewing at the SM City Sta. Mesa.




Araneta Avenue
Aurora Boulevard
LRT 2 Sta.Mesa Station
CCP Extension
Central Colleges Of The Philippines
Immaculate Heart Of Mary College
UERM Hospital
University Of The East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (UERMMMC)
UE College Of Dentistry

mezza
RESIDENCES
All under one roof. Yours.
Panoramic view of Metro Manila Skyline
Picture window for all units
High ceiling units
Bridgeway to SM City Sta.Mesa
Modern convenience with cafes, service and retail shops at the podium
Outdoor function deck and function rooms
Zen garden with meditation area and reflexology path
Healthwalk and cabanas dotting the gardens
25 meter lap pool with submerged lounge deck
Interactive water jets, wet play area and playground
A thousand square meter lawn
A total of 8,000 square meters of amenities and
open space dedicated to bringing you fun and recreation
Developer:
SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Landowner:
BANCO DE ORO
Visit our model units at
the SM City Sta. Mesa.
Call 632-8315151, 632918-8881203 or
visit www.smdevelopment.com
Aurora Boulevard corner
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

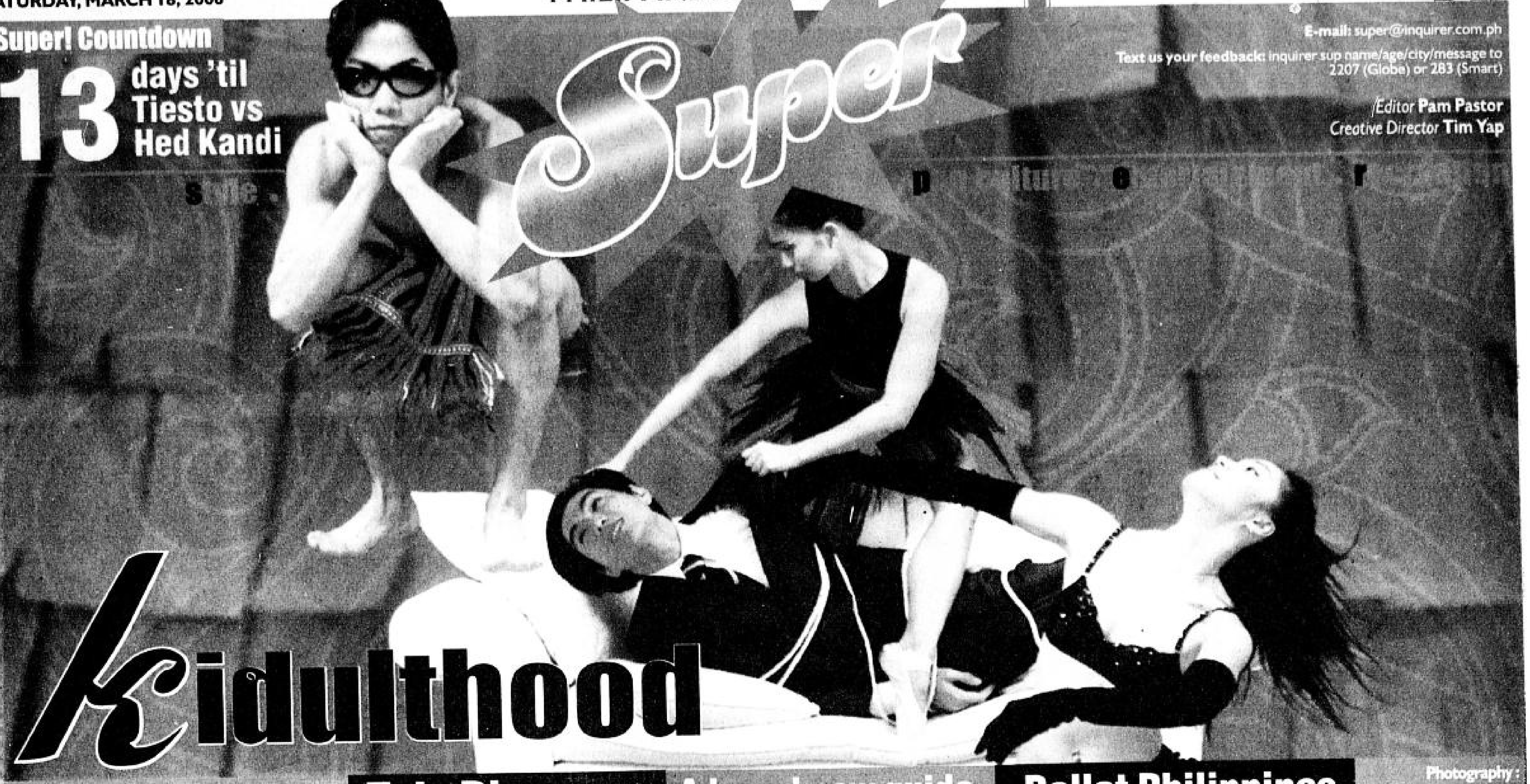
Super

Super! Countdown

13 days 'til Tiesto vs Hed Kandi

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**



Kidulthood

Super! exclusive V is for Vendetta page D1

Tals Diaz on high school, college for Gino de la Paz page C2

A brand new guide exclusively for 'Jologs' page D4

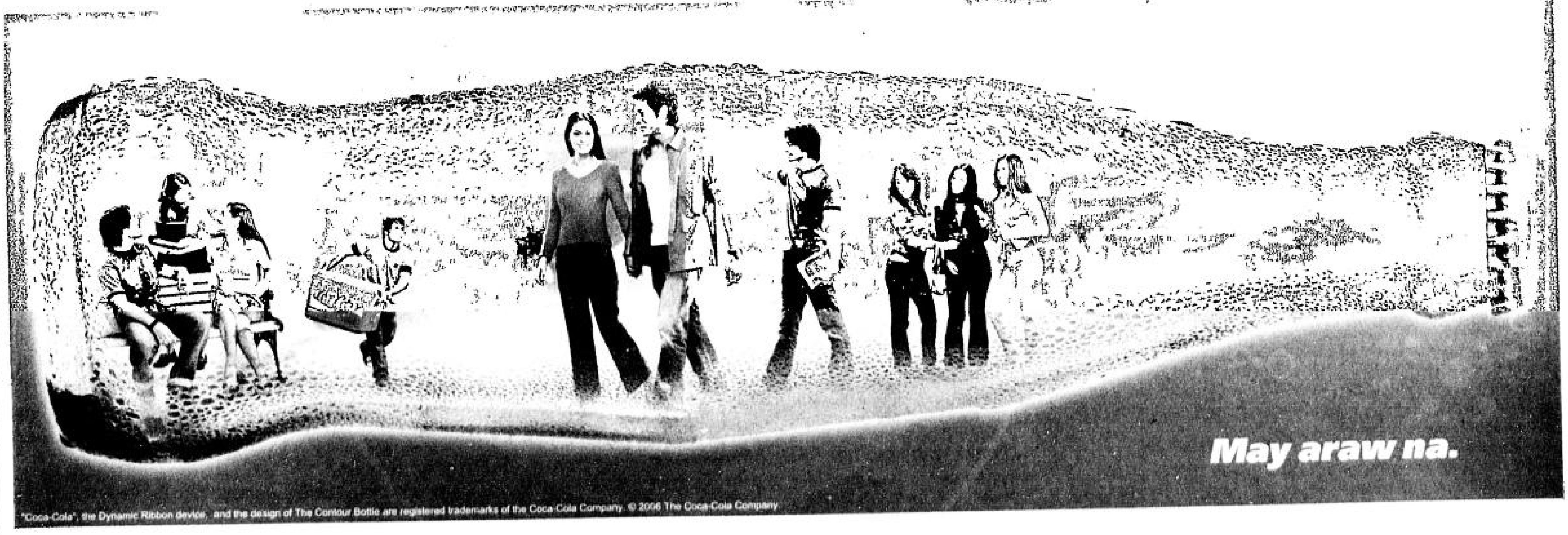
Ballet Philippines goes 'Full Monty!' page E1

Photography: JAKE VERSOZA
Cover star: MICHAEL, ANGEL, CANDICE and HANEDY of BALLET PHILIPPINES DANCE COMPANY

www.healthyoptions.com.ph

Eat good, live bad longer. Whatever lifestyle you choose, it's always a good choice to be healthy with our pure, natural and organic products.

healthy Options®
better choices | better life

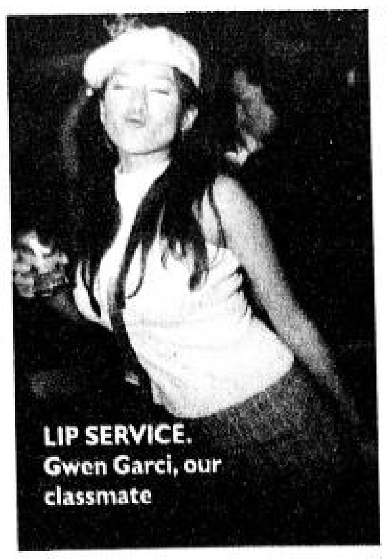


May araw na.

"Coca-Cola", the Dynamic Ribbon device, and the design of The Contour Bottle are registered trademarks of the Coca-Cola Company. © 2006 The Coca-Cola Company

MATH CLUB PRESIDENT. Geneva Cruz does a Britney

CAMPUS SWEETHEART. Vina Morales



LIP SERVICE. Gwen Garci, our classmate

HONOR ROLL MODELS. Colette Centeno and Joey Mead

GRADE B-ENCH. Lema Diaz and Bianca King

MAKING THE GRADE. Valedictorian Tals Diaz

WELCOME TO EMBASSY HIGH

TOO KOOL FOR SCHOOL

By Tals Diaz
Photos by Willy Saw

IN THE SHORT-LIVED, NOW-defunct teenage drama series, "My So-called Life," high school was said to be about as fun as a "drive-by shooting."

A textbook example of hyperbole, maybe? Then again, high school was all about real-life drama, and real-life hyperbole (if you don't know what "hyperbole" is, then go back to grade school, honey). When you think about it, high school was one of our earliest field trips into the sticky social web. There were the "cool kids," the disaffected cliques that comprised the chiseled jocks and the pretty girls (who, at an early age, already sprouted healthy chests). There were the drippy nerds and the geeks, usually victims of the sniggers and verbal jabs of the predatory bullies. Even back then, there were already social climbers who latched on to the cool kids because they knew their very identity in the pecking order was dependent on it. Ah, high school... to be Dickensian about it, it was the best of times, and it was the worst of times.

Thus, to celebrate its first year anniversary, Embassy Super Club turned back the clock to that kaleidoscopic, formative stage of our quarter-life existence. In this Embassy High School reunion, we witnessed Manila's effervescent party set relive those Breakfast Club moments by personifying the eternal archetypes ranging between chic to geek. From the yearbook photos taken that night, it actually seemed like an ideal world, where pig-tailed cheerleaders rubbed shoulders with nerds, trophied jocks clinked glasses with boy scouts, and private school mingled with *Iskul Bukul*.

Just like high school, IDs were given out to the student body: Special Embassy VIP cards as a reward for their consistent attendance record. As for outstanding behavior, well, if collectively waving glowy rattles in the air to a Bon Jovi redux while sloshed on champagne offered any clue, we'd say that the pupils scored an A plus in the subject of Social Science.

Cheers to Embassy High's yearbook sponsors Rustan's U, Fasio, Smirnoff Ice and Johnnie Walker.

SCOUT'S HONOR. [illegible]

MAY I GO OUT? Asks Ina Raymundo

NEW TIESTOMENT. Stephen Ku and Kat Cruz

GEEK GODDESS. We love Astrud Crisologo

MUSIC CLASS. Disc jock Ace of Embassy

MEMOIRS OF A MARIKO. Dance trooper Mariko Jacinto

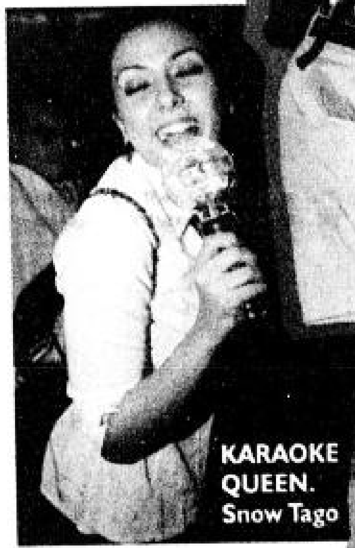
SCHOOL DANCE. Amanda Griffin and Gutsy Tuason

CUTTING CLASSES. Marc Nelson, Tisha Silang, Geoff Rodriguez, Alex Gutierrez and Tito Herbosa

COLEGIALAS. Chalk chicks Vicky Montenegro, Stef Cabal and Bea Constantino

ICE
DON'T WORRY

TEAM YAP. Jay-R, Tim Yap and Jimmy Muna at Embassy High '06



KARAOKE QUEEN. Snow Tago

DISCIPLINARY ACTION. RJ Ledesma and Giselle Sanchez

Inside the world outside college

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

OUT OF THE BUBble and into the bullpen—that's the mildly encouraging cliché my senior year professors used to describe post-college life. And by "encouraging" I meant to say "ominous." Whoops.

With SATs to ace, Hemingway-like essays to cook up, and a hurricane of other requirements to worry about, I thought snagging a spot in a good university—or at the very least, getting those admissions nerds to notice me—was tough. I had absolutely no clue that getting out of university was an even more epic task, one that had me seeing cartoon birds fly around my head out of sheer anxiety.

Three words sent the circuit board known as my heart into a near-crash: the real world. The term referred to actual life in the workplace, a hive of activity filled with backstabbing peers, mind-numbing chores, and a little nookie now and then. Okay, it may have been close to the pioneering MTV reality show of the same name, but other than the drama, it was a completely alien place. Let me twirl my imaginary mustache as I sort this bad boy out.

Jeopardy: Post-College Edition

On the one hand, I had all the right in the world to freak out. After all, this was my future we were talking about; it was useless pirouetting around it. Will my résumé stand out in a sea of other résumés? Will they call me back for an interview? If they do, will they ask me about the 1922 Treaty of Rapallo? (See, I cheated on that history final and got a B+. Suckers! But now they'll know I faked it. Dagnabbit!) Will that prof who's an internationally renowned pain in the ass suddenly become my boss? Will I end up with a decent-paying job? If not, are there hotter chicks with richer daddies outside college? Are there? Huh? Angst.

So there. My list of concerns spanned everything from the essential (getting my foot in the door) to the superfluous (resorting to eating infants to maintain my youthful good looks-psych!). But most of all, I worried about losing touch with my buddies. See, I've heard horror stories from older pals—about them drifting apart from peeps they considered the tightest because work got in the way of hanging out and made them boring grown-ups and/or inflexible shrews. I mean, if things changed when Dawson, Pacey, Joey, and Jen graduated from high school, what more after they graduated from college? And if there's one thing I know for sure, it's that TV shows present the truth. Always. I was doomed! Or was I?

Everybody's free (to graduate)

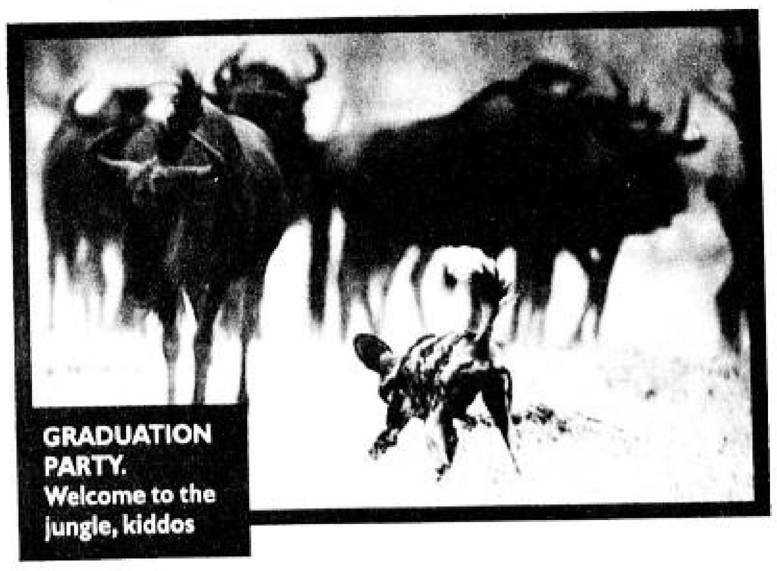
On the other, I'd like to put a quick pause on the gutter talk since I realize that some of you reading this may already be spooked about life after graduation. So instead, let's focus on the half-full side of things.

Apart from Sir Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," I've come to consider Baz Lurhmann's "Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)" a modern commencement day anthem. I used to think it sucked because he just droned on and on about humorless stuff instead of rhyming about, say, being friends forever like Vitamin C in, uhm, "Graduation (Friends Forever)." Which totally sucks choad, too, but whatever.

Things changed the other day—okay, it was close to three years ago—when I suddenly found myself floored by the lines I once found unbearably cheese-like. Baz Luhrmann chanted, "Don't feel guilty if you don't know what you want to do with your life. The most interesting people I know didn't know at 22 what they wanted to do with their lives. Some of the most interesting 40-year-olds I know still don't." Whoa, right?

The transition

It's really tempting to quote more nuggets from this decade-old track but that's what Google's for. In true wisdumb-dispensing tradition, though, here are some tips on how to transition into the world outside college from someone who already lives there, i.e., me.



GRADUATION PARTY. Welcome to the jungle, kiddos

1. Tweak your résumé.

As an applicant for an entry-level drone position, it's understandable that your résumé isn't as sparkly as someone with more experience. That said, however, it would help a great deal if you gave the contents of your bio a quick edit. Give your list of accomplishments a shelf life of about five years. If it exceeds that—like the spelling bee you won in 5th grade, for instance—it's time to hit the delete button. There are ways to make you sound more capable without blatantly lying and that's where your witty writing skills—or your witty writer friends—jump in.

2. Hunt, hunt, hunt!

Not cloud-hunting, mind you, but job-hunting. Your university's job placement office should be a good place to start. If not, scout around the different job fair meat markets in your city. If you're a lazy ass, post your résumé online and wait for them to come to you. Better yet, cover all bases and be aggressive. B-e aggressive!

3. Get on the trainee train.

If you're not in a hurry to find a steady job, you can try working as an intern first. It's an awesome way to know if you're cut out for a job-and vice-versa—before actually committing to a contract. Think of it not as another bullet point, but as a star for your résumé.

4. Mix it up.

By that, I mean mingle. If you've zeroed in on the industry you want or feel is appropriate for your talents, start sucking up to, er, networking with peeps in that line of work. Staying home to watch "Office Space" will give you an insight into a cubicle-dweller's life but it won't add any new names to your black book. Your can-do attitude will take you far. Or to that first real job.

5. Dress for success.

It's in your evil best interest to present yourself in the most favorable way and this is crucial during job interviews. Leave the rock n' roll bangs, slutty makeup and chewing gum at home, unless you want to work as a pole dancer. Facial fuzz is a possible negative, but if you must rock the mustache, make sure it's neat and trimmed. Even though many companies have laidback internal dress codes, interviews still follow the conservative—or corporate—standard. Don't buck it, tiger. You should be doing the talking, not your clothes.

6. Brush up.

Speaking of one-on-ones, take the time to fully prepare yourself for a meeting with the recruitment officer. Get the vibe of the company either by asking around or skimming their website. Nope, you can't turbocram the night before and "ace" your interview.

7. Chill like a villain.

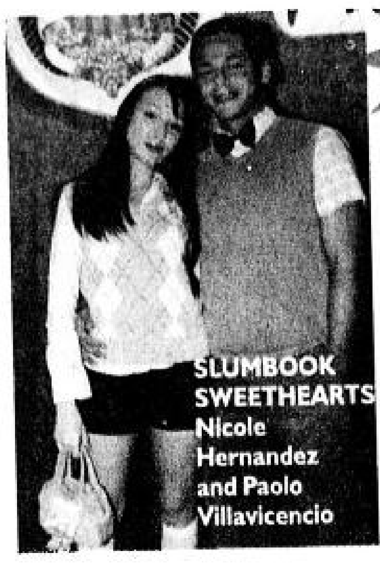
Sure, finding work in a slow economy is rough. But pragmatic and patient college grads can find jobs, and some of which are quite excellent. If it's meant for you, it will come.

8. Don't be a chicken.

Everything outside the cushy walls of your campus seems like a complete mystery. Approach it that way. Despite the conflicts you're bound to face, there will be triumphs along the way. That goes with making new friends, too. Suck it up. You'll never know what it's like unless you try. Here's to your first paycheck!

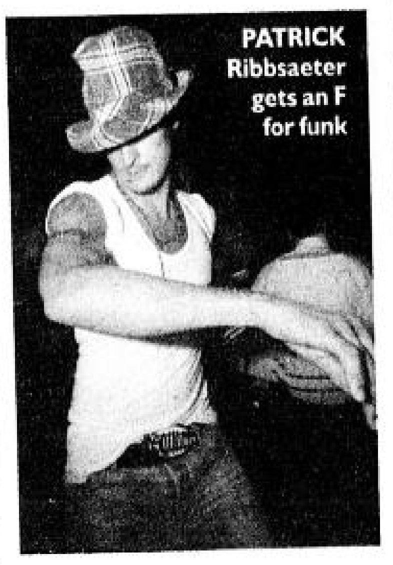
AH, CIARA! Ciara in a tiara (salutatorian)

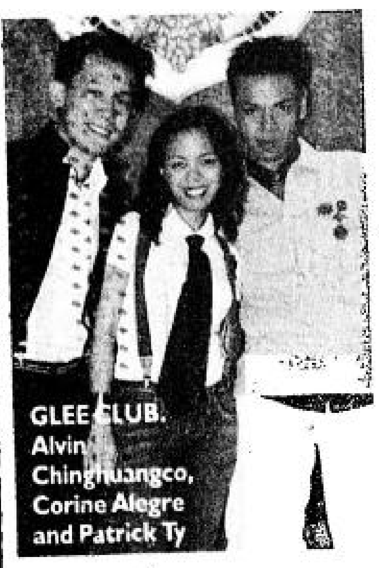
PREPPY LOVE. Erik Cua and Michelle Pamintuan, most likely to...


SLUMBOOK SWEETHEARTS Nicole Hernandez and Paolo Villavicencio

NO MORE TEACHERS. Michelle Madrigal, freestylin'

BEAUTY SCHOOL PLUS. Tina Tinio and Ianne Evangelista


PATRICK Ribbsaeter gets an F for funk

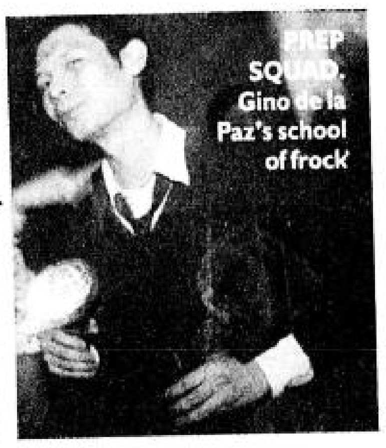

GLEE CLUB. Alvin Chinghuangco, Corine Alegre and Patrick Ty

DON'T WORRY, BE MAIKE. Maike Evers and Jay-R

SCHOOL TIES. Jon Herrera and Ferns Aracama

AKO TROPHY WIFE. Jenni Epperson, wink wink

LUNCH BOX-OFFICE HITS. Kat Holigores and AJ Gloria


PREP SQUAD. Gino de la Paz's school of frock

Ladies

and gentlemen

of the class

of '06, welcome

to whatever

awaits you

Super SELECTION:

Take two

By Chabs Rubio

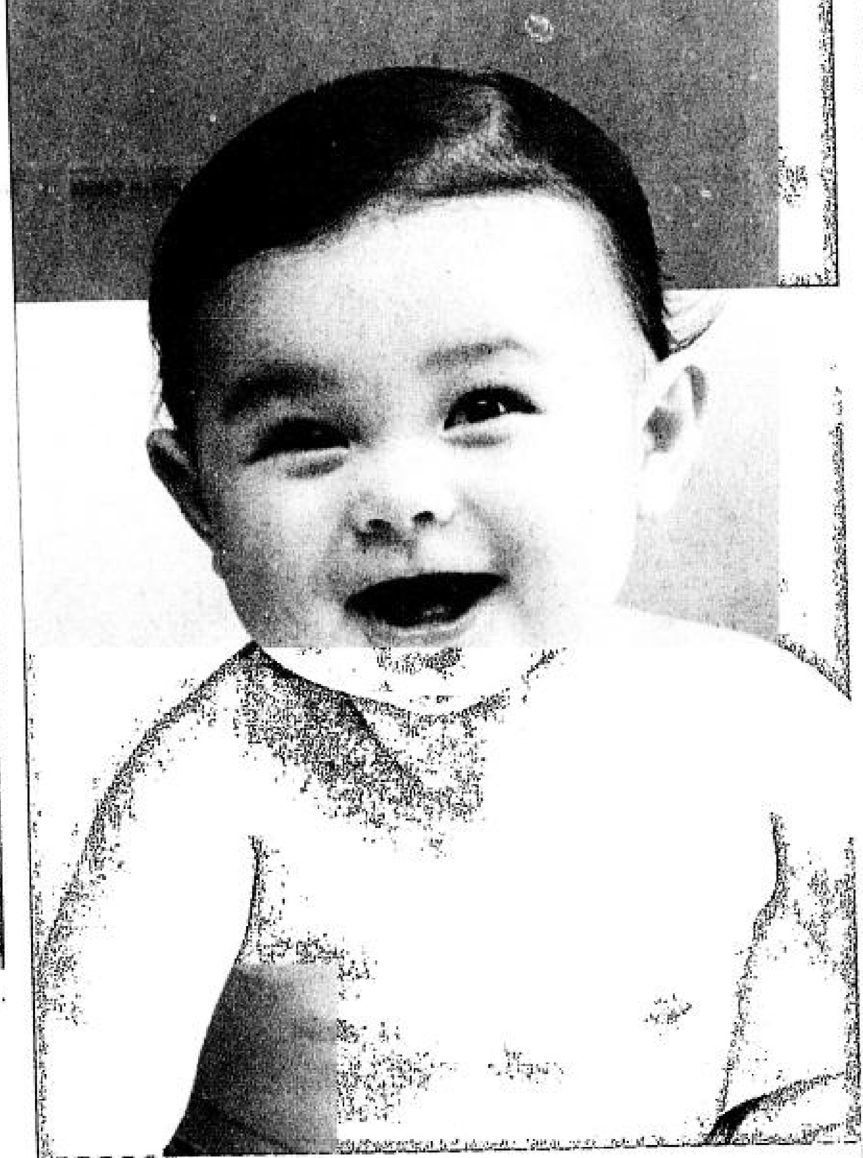
HANDSOMELY DESIGNED in a sleek, slim, small package, the Kodak V570 is super stylish and sexy. With a 5.0-megapixel imager and a 2.5-inch high-resolution color display LCD screen and record TV-quality video features, the Kodak V570, the digital leader's Super! star product of the year, is designed to capture every moment. And it is able to do so with not just one, but two lenses!

Backed up with Kodak's Retina dual lens technology, this pocket pal answers an unmet need in the point-and-snap era since the advent of everything digital: true wide-angle photography in a small space. Now you can take group photos, class pics, batch pics—all you want!

Kodak
DUAL LENS

"The Kodak EasyShare V570 answers every picture taker's need for high performance features in a sleek package. Kodak is the first to provide customers with an ultra-wide lens in a pocket-sized camera," said Raymond Albert, Country General Manager, Kodak Philippines, as he took our snapshot.

1 out of 3 children afflicted by the traitor disease will die.



Wyeth

Every smile, every little move he makes brings you joy. You love him and protect him from harm. Do you know he could be in danger right now?

There is a traitor disease that afflicts children, even those aged 2 years and below. It kills more than a million babies every year. This traitor is called Invasive Pneumococcal Disease or IPD.

It can lead to Bacterial Meningitis, a kind of IPD that infects the covering of the brain and spinal cord and could kill your child in two days. If your child does survive the next two days, don't celebrate—severe complications can include massive brain damage leading to mental retardation, seizures, and paralysis—conditions worse than death.

According to a study conducted by Dr. Rose Capeding et al of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (R.I.T.M.), 90% of IPD's occurrences were seen among children below 5 years old, 78% were less than 2 years of age. Almost all invasive pneumococcal diseases were seen in children below one year of age. 1 out of 3 of those afflicted died.

The only real solution to IPD is prevention. Mercifully, you can protect your child because an IPD vaccine is now available. For effective protection against this killer illness, immunize your baby at an early age.

Ask your pediatrician about the IPD vaccine. Choose prevention before it's too late.

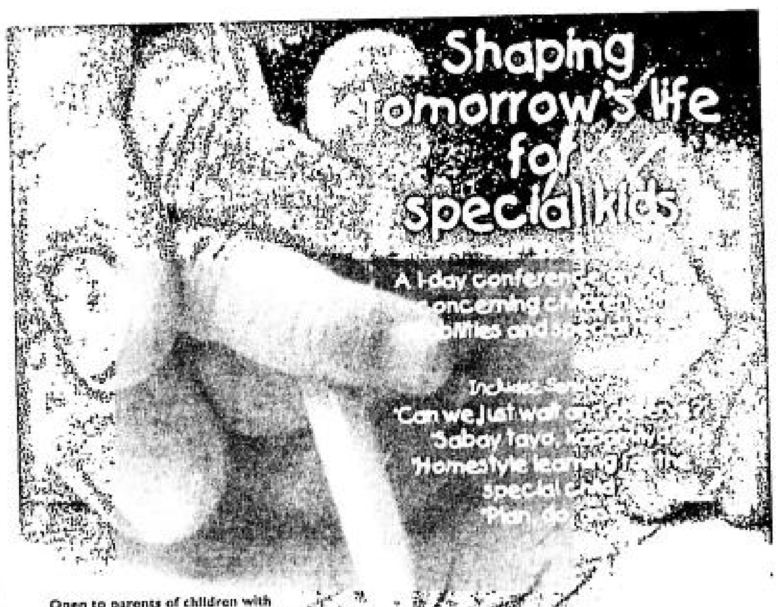
ipd
invasive pneumococcal disease

Ask your doctor about it.

( ) Yes, I want to know more about IPD! Please send me more information.

Name: __________
Address: __________
Contact No. __________

Kindly cut and fax to 8846780 or send to Pharma Division, Wyeth Philippines, Inc. 2236 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1200


Shaping tomorrow's life for special kids
A 1-day conferen[illegible] concerning chi[illegible] [illegible]bilities and sp[illegible]
Includes Se[illegible]
'Can we just wait a[illegible]
'Sabay tayo, [illegible]
'Homestyle learni[illegible] special c[illegible]
'Plan, do[illegible]

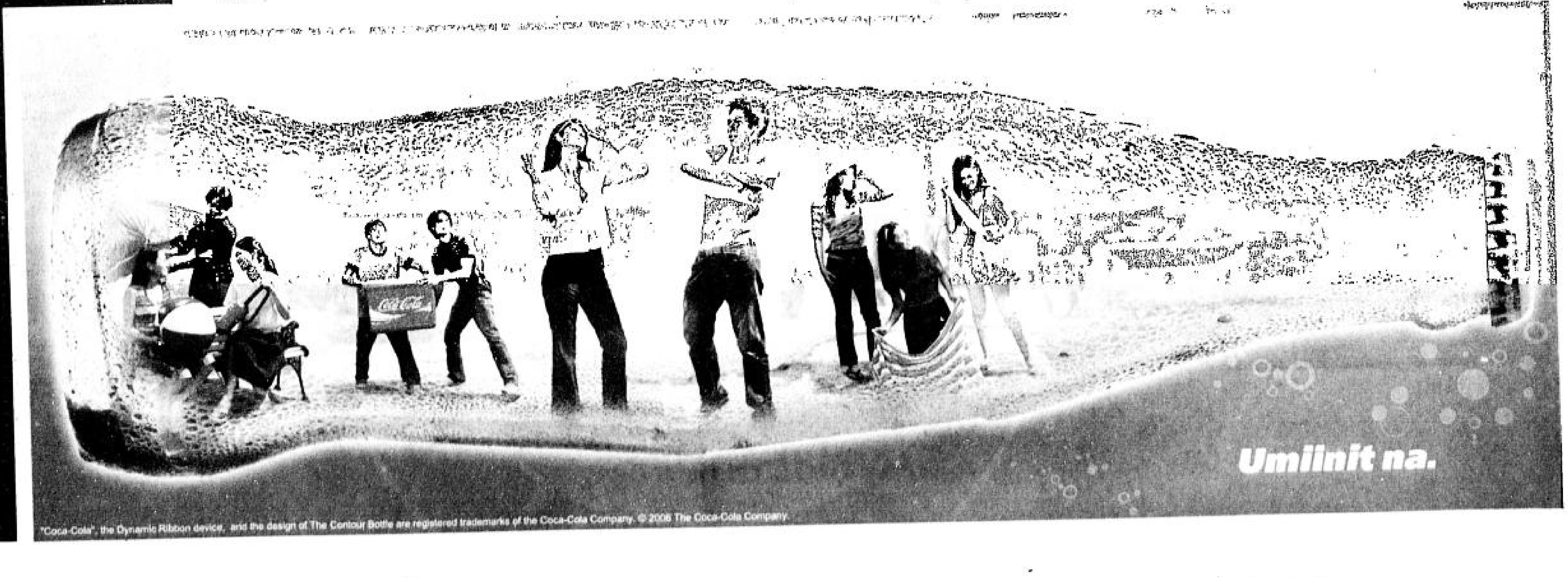
Open to parents of children with disabilities and special needs, caregivers, students and professionals from medical and allied fields.

For more info:
Call up Mara, Imelda and Harris
at telephone (02) 6700-8400 or Txt 09273969393
or log on to: www.cplesd.org

MARCH 25, 2006, Saturday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Solarium Café, NAPOCOR, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Quezon City

Organized by
Julia-Bill Events & Marketing Services
24th Floor Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue corner Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Telephone (02) 6700 8400
email: juliabillevents@yahoo.com

Masterfoods



"Coca-Cola", the Dynamic Ribbon device, and the design of The Contour Bottle are registered trademarks of the Coca-Cola Company. © 2006 The Coca-Cola Company.

Thinking of moving? *Think Ayala Land Premier. Whether located amidst rolling hills and orchards, or in skyscraping cosmopolitan towers, or awe-inspiring seaside getaways, Ayala Land Premier properties offer privacy, ultimate comfort and security found nowhere else in the real estate world. Backed by Ayala Land's mark of enhancing the customers' quality of life, Ayala Land Premier ensures exclusivity and value over time with its superior customer care and property management. It is the brand that counts for splendid living. The only wrong move you could make is to not pay a visit today.*

728-7000 • www.ayalalandpremier.com

AyalaLand PREMIER

Super

The World according to V

Story on Page D2

Skin Success Does Not Happen Overnight
But it can happen...
in 14 Days!

... Dark circles around the eye disappear by 40% in just 7 days...
... Erase pimples overnight...
... Erase facial scars by 10% in just 14 days...
... Natural skin blush in just 14 days...
... Erase freckles by 20% in 14 days, 80% in 30 days...
... Skin pigmentation reduced by 10% in 14 days, 60% in 60 days...
... Minimize pores by 40% in 14 days...
... Wrinkles reduced by 20% in 14 days...

Beauty and Skin Care Authority
nora dela rosa
Since 1972

Main Clinic: G/F, 427 Martinez St., Mandaluyong City
Tels. 532-2115 / 534-2671
Clinic Schedules:
Monday-Friday 10AM - 7 PM /Saturday: 9 AM - 6 PM

US (California) Branch
10041 Lampson Ave., Gardengrove,
California, USA, 92840
Tels. (714) 530-3124 c/o Dr. Pearl Neri

Nora's Hotline: 532-2115
NOW OPEN FOR FRANCHISE

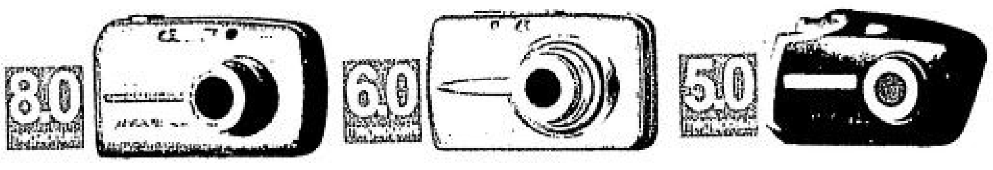
A bit to the left please.

OLYMPUS

Rainy day pictorial? Not a problem. Olympus' all-weather design allows worry-free shooting in any weather condition with its exclusive Top-Shell barrier, full-flat, protrusion-free design and rubber-protected interiors. Now, you can say cheese--rain or shine.

OLYMPUS

Olympus μ-800, μ-600 and μ-Mini S. All-weather.



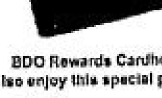
SM ADVANTAGE
8880 8880 7899 2015
PAMELA R GARCIA
09 2007

SM Advantage update

Staying at Taal Vista Hotel
has just become more rewarding

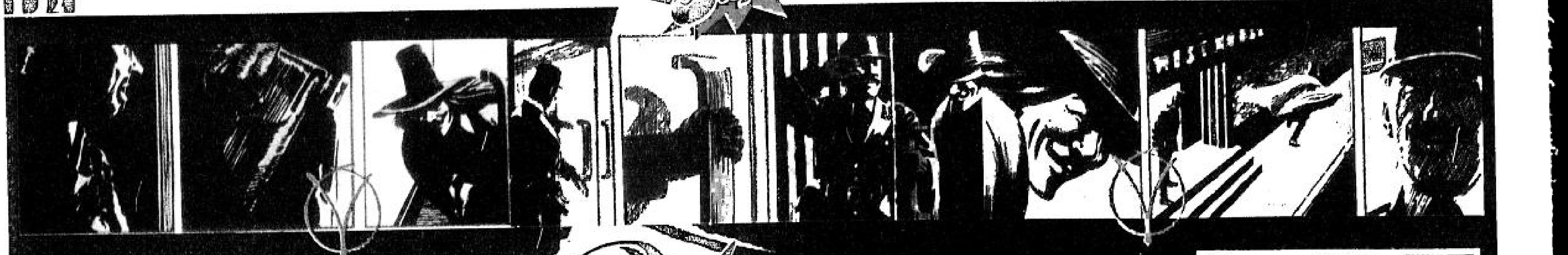
Earn rewards points as you relax and unwind
at Tagaytay's premier resort hotel.
Just present your SM Advantage Card upon check-in.

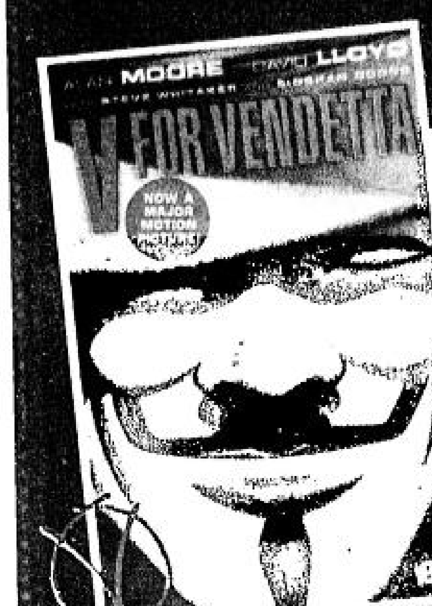
TAAL VISTA HOTEL
MANAGED BY FUEGO HOTELS & PROPERTIES



BDO Rewards Cardholders
also enjoy this special privilege!

Check the Lifestyle Section every other week for the latest in SM Advantage promos and highlights.





The World according to V

By Ruel S. de Vera

THERE REMAIN SOME fortuitous happenings in the world. "V for Vendetta" artist David Lloyd, for one, is quite pleased with what has come out of his work. "It's a great piece of work," he says of the film adaptation of his graphic novel collaboration with comic book genius Alan Moore. "I think the script is very good. It does take out a lot of the story and some of the characters. I think that it is something that had to be done, because it would have been a long film had they done a complete book-to-screen adaptation."

Full of Moore's distinctive word-balloon poetry and Lloyd's edgy panel prophecy, the dystopian tale behind "V" began being told in 1981 in England's Warrior magazine, ultimately wrapping up at DC Comics in 1998. The complex story of the Guy Fawkes-masked freedom fighter V was eventually adapted for the screen by the Wachowski brothers, fresh off the "Matrix" trilogy, directed by James McTeigue and featuring Natalie Portman and Hugo Weaving.

Originally from Enfield, England, Lloyd has kept busy as a revered comics talent and has worked with great writers such as Garth Ennis on "War Story" and Warren Ellis on "Global Frequency." But it is his indelible imagery depicting the dark future of England as defined by Moore and read by many in "Vendetta" that most recognize him for. Among his current projects is the Cartoon Classroom, an online resource for British comic book and cartoon professionals, both established and aspiring. The INQUIRER spoke over the telephone with Lloyd in London to hear about his bulletproof ideas.

Q: It's been over 15 years since you and Alan Moore completed "V for Vendetta" for Vertigo. How well do you think the work has stood up over time?

A: I think it's completely fresh, as fresh now as it was then because it's theme is constant. There's always some oppressive regime, some dictatorship, there's always some situation that echoes the scenes depicted in "V for Vendetta" and also more importantly the human situation, the position of us being forced to be part of society we don't want to be part of. Those themes are universal. I think that's one of the reasons it's been so successful everywhere because it speaks to the past and the present and the future.

Q: Are you surprised with how accurate the novel has become?

A: We created it on the same basis that George Orwell wrote "1984." It was a cautionary tale. It was a way of expressing our political viewpoint but also making it a fairy tale, an allegory. It was something that could speak to people about what could happen, if you don't stick up for your rights. The story, effectively, is about people giving their freedom and responsibility to a strong leader. That's happened throughout history. One of the important messages of "V" is for the individual to be individual.

'V for Vendetta' artist David Lloyd speaks on the excitement of seeing his work come alive on the big screen and the powerful memory of working with Alan Moore

Q: What do you remember the most from your collaboration with Alan Moore on "V for Vendetta"?

A: The thing I was happiest with from a creative point of view working with Alan from the early days of "V" when it first appeared in England is that when we first began it we worked in a very slow process, because it was in a monthly magazine. We just did six-to-eight page chapters every month. Alan would write a script and send it to me. And then I would do the artwork and then send that to Alan. So Alan would always see the art of the previous story before he worked on the next script. Because of that, it made the whole process of creativity a very organic one. There was more time for us to think about creating it. That great way of producing, almost like jamming, almost like jazz, where we would bounce off each other's creative influence, that kind of ceased when we eventually finished the story with DC because Alan was so busy at the time that there was no way we could work in that way.

Q: Alan Moore has asked that his name be taken off the film. How do you feel about that now?

A: He did want to take his name off the film and I think that's just Alan's viewpoint. I think he was very unhappy with the way things took place. And it's quite understandable. He has the attitude as an artist and writer that he doesn't want changes to his work that he's not one hundred percent behind. I did try to call him to get him to change his mind about that because I think that whatever his views on the film, having that foundation, of its origins "by Alan Moore and David Lloyd," I wanted to keep that because that's where the thing came from. But he's entitled to do that. And Larry and Andy Wachowski completely understand that themselves because they took their names off a movie in the past. I feel quite sad about it because I think they've done a terrific adaptation. They kept the core of the story. The spirit, integrity and the message are all there.

Q: Is it true he assigned his royalties to you?

A: Yes. He is entitled to do what he wants to do with his royalties. Well, there's only one other place it could go because we made it and that was me. (Laughs) I think he kind of regretted it. He said it to some reporter that he was going to do that, and so he had to do it once he said it. It obviously shows he doesn't need the money.

Q: Is there a part of the movie that you like specifically?

A: There's one particular scene that I was quite moved by. It's the transformation scene. It's the moment where Evey comes out of this jail that she's been in. She undergoes a sort of epiphany. When I drew it in the graphic novel, I wanted it to be as realistic as powerful as I could make it. When I saw that on the cinema screen, I was taken with it. It was like seeing your painting come to life. Terrific acting from Natalie (Portman) and Hugo Weaving. That was the scene that meant the most to me.

Q: What can people expect next from you?

A: The next thing for me really is something called "Kickback," which is a crime thriller about a corrupt policeman and a corrupt police force who decides he's going to change his way of life and the story is about how and why he decides to make that decision. That's coming out from Dark Horse Comics in America in the summertime. I originally did it in France and it's a 92-page graphic novel. I'm very proud of that because I did the whole thing—written, drawn and colored by myself—and I hope it gets over there to the Philippines and that you enjoy it.

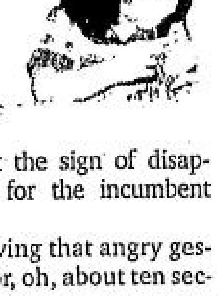
Q: You've been working in comics since 1977. How representative then is "V for Vendetta" of your entire body of work?

A: "V" is very useful for me as an artist because it means everybody knows who I am. It allows me great freedom because people know what I do and they know I'm reliable, what I'm capable of. It means I never have trouble getting work and that I can just do what I want to do, which is very important in this business. Because if you're not in a position to decide what story you're going to tell, then you just end up chasing whatever work is around, and that's why I'm very lucky to be out of that. I'm very proud of the effect that "Vendetta" has had on people all throughout the globe because it shows that the story speaks to everybody where they are."

Warner Bros.' "V for Vendetta" is still showing in theaters today.

The Coffee Coup? Say that Again?

OUT THE WINDOW

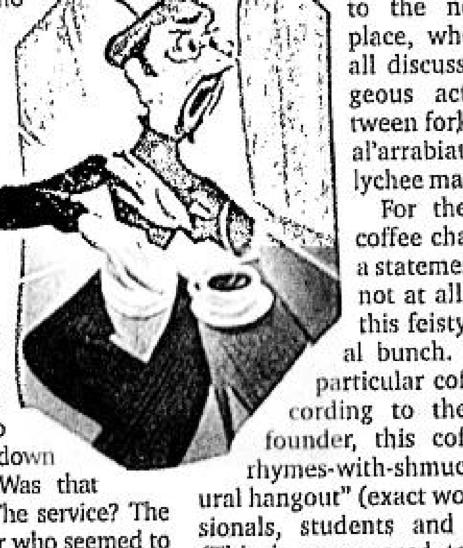


Tals Diaz

REVOLUTIONS AND PROTESTS are oh-so-hip these days.

A few weeks back, in what was touted as the Black Friday Protest Movement, the group eLagda baptized an upscale coffee bar chain (clue, it rhymes with shmucks) as the preferred venue to congregate and express their disapproval of the GMA government.

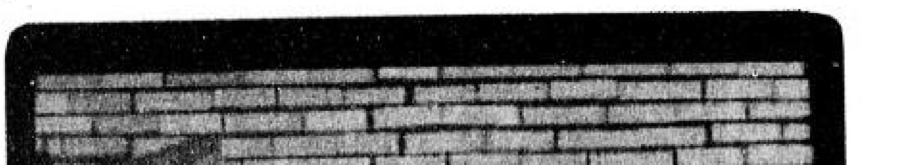
The plan was as easy as ordering extra cream with your coffee. The movement urged members of the upper and middle class to wear black (how very beatnik) and make a beeline to the pricey coffee shop every Friday between 6 to 7 p.m. This of course is the ideal time slot because it's after work hours, so no one misses a day's wages. After everyone in the group ordered their respective mocha frappuccinos and raspberry iced teas, they are to leave en masse, and at a signal, simultaneously give a "thumbs down" sign.



Now I just have to add that your regular fly-on-the-wall would most likely be bewildered as to what all the thumbs down gestures were about. Was that meant for the coffee? The service? The chick behind the counter who seemed to have O.D.'d on caffeine and saccharine? Anyone would be hard pressed to make the connection that the sign of disapproval was meant for the incumbent president.

Anyway, after giving that angry gesture that will last for, oh, about ten seconds, the valiant protest group would then be dismissed and allowed to proceed to the next gimmick place, where they can all discuss their courageous actions in between forkfuls of penne al'arrabiata and sips of lychee martinis.

For the record, the coffee chain has issued a statement that they're not at all connected to this feisty conspiratorial bunch. But why this particular coffee shop? According to the movement's founder, this coffee-joint-that-rhymes-with-shmucks is the "natural hangout" (exact words) of professionals, students and businessmen. (This is as opposed to the "natural hangouts" of the slackers, the bums, the deadbeats and couch potatoes, who prefer hanging out in bed, shopping malls, beer gardens, and in front of the TV.)



THE MAD COMPANY moves from the tea table to the coffeeshop.

A funny thing happened on the way to the coffee shop ...

Wow, how super convenient! Now, members of the upper strata need not break a sweat in joining rallies and demonstrations in the streets, where there is no "air-con." Wait, this just gets better. Executives and managers were encouraged to "treat their subordinates and even provide a carpooling service" to the venue.

Excuse me while I scratch my head for the hundredth time and ask, are these people high on crack? Did they actually believe that this was going to work? Fine, it's peaceful. It's bloodless. It's a pretty trendy way to express your political opinion. And hell, it gives you a caffeine kick for the day. But this sure gives new meaning to the phrase "bourgeois revolution."

That old cat-killer called curiosity got the better of me and I decided two Fridays ago to check it out myself. At the specified hour, I went to the nearest branch of the popular coffee chain, and waited for the brave, black-clad mob to emerge. I scanned the room to look for signs of the caffeined fiends, ready to scream out, *"makibaka!"* (or rather, "*maki*-cow!" as was more appropriate for this bunch.) All seemed peaceful on the front. Perhaps they were incognito? Was the fearless leader the guy who was sitting alone, blithely smoking his Marlboro reds? Or the law students at the corner, mesmerized by the multicolored neon highlighters scattered on the table? Maybe even those two *shoppingeras* amidst a flock of shopping bags at their sides, sipping their lattes? I stayed on until past the hour of reckoning ... nothing.

This case of a little failed uprising brings to light the quirks of our odd society.

I think we're done with revolutions taken within the context of rebellion. What we fail to see, time and again, is the other, more important definition of "revolution." And that is the next level, *transformation*. A transformation of values, a change of perspective. You want the upper middle class to mobilize? Then you don't let them drink coffee—you suspend their coffee drinking privileges (gasp!) or at least paint a picture that pretty much the rest of the country can't even afford to buy a hundred peso cup of coffee.

I'd say the conspiracy worth instigating here is sensibility and sensitivity. The act of real change constitutes a certain degree of discomfort. Gandhi went on a hunger strike for God's sake, and here, some people are concerned about having a venue where it's comfy and where they can have a frappuccino to go. You don't just tell people to "fight," you educate them, you make them think just what exactly it is we are fighting for. I'd say we could fight against idiocy, for starters.

Transforming ourselves first, now there's a real wake up call. "Be the change you wish to see," said Gandhi the great revolutionary. Otherwise, everything else is just revolting.

NBC Tent the Fort
FRI March 31/ 6:30 pm
EsAc SALUTES THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FDAP
adrian rios ● bumbee ramos ● delby bragais ● edgar madamba edgar san diego
fanny serrano ● francis calaquian gener gozum ● ivan dela cruz ● jerome salayang ang
joel escober ● john abul ● johnny abad ● jontie martinez ● lito perez ● nolie pilapil
ola morabe ● oscar peralta ● ramon esteban ● raoul ramirez ● rem divino
rholand roxas ● richard papa ● roland lirio ● ronaldo arnaldo ● vivo nazareth

NBC Tent the Fort
SAT April 1
PREMIER COLLECTION A
3:00 pm
rajo laurel
6:30 pm
SONY ERICSSON PRESENTS
THE 2006 POWER GENERATION FORECAST
and THE NEW GENERATION COLLECTION
aries lagbat ● benjie panizales ● dexter alazas ● edgar buyan
emi - alexander engle ● [illegible] ● jasmine castelo ● john guarnes
jun escario ● malu figueras ● manuel barretto ● marichu tan ● mich dulce
olive cruz ● regine dulay ● [illegible] ● tippi ocampo ● veejay flores

NBC Tent the Fort
SUN April 2
PREMIER COLLECTION B
3:00 pm
alex pigao ● lyle ibañez ● raoul ramirez
6:30 pm
LUXE WEAR COLLECTION
[illegible] ● alex pigao ● avel bacudio ● aziec
chris diaz ● [illegible] ● eddie castro ● [illegible]
eric sapaula ● edwin tan ● gerry katigbak ● glenn l
jay sustiguer ● john paras ● joy fernandez ● lenna
melvin lacirda ● pepe tan ● veejay floresca ● popoy
protacio empaces ● rajo laurel ● ramon [illegible] ●

NBC Tent the Fort
MON April 3/ 6:30 pm
YOUNG AVANT GARDE COLLECT
featuring WELLA TREND VISION 2
brian leyva ● clara maraasigan ● dong omaga-diaz
ferdie abuel ● james reyes ● joey samson ● john he
louie claparols ● liz punzalan ● mel vergel de dio
mitzi quilendrino ● patty eustaquio ● relan mata
yvonne quisumbing-romulo

NBC Tent the Fort
TUE April 4
PREMIER COLLECTION C
12:00 nn
anthony nocom ● avel bacudio ● gerry katigbak

PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK06

MARCH 31- APRIL 9, 2006

PREMIER COLLECTION D
3:00 pm
frederick peralta
6:30 pm
SONY presents THE GRAND ALLURE COLLECTION
featuring THE HANDYCAM
alex bitong ● anthony nocom ● anthony romol ● barge ramos ● bo constantino
bong lazo ● dennis martin ● edgar allan ● frederick peralta ● harley ruedas
judith pajaro ● julius tarog ● kate torralba ● larry espinosa ● letlet veloso
lyle ibañez ● noli yneza ● oliver tolentino ● renee salud ● shanon pamaong
sherwin darrel magulis ● simon ariel vasquez ● steve de leon

Glorietta Activity Center
WED April 5/ 6:00 pm
SONY ERICSSON presents
EASY FASHION!

Embassy Supper Club
WED April 5/ 9:30 pm
SONY presents
FASHIONABLY LOUD PARTY
featuring the new WALKMAN

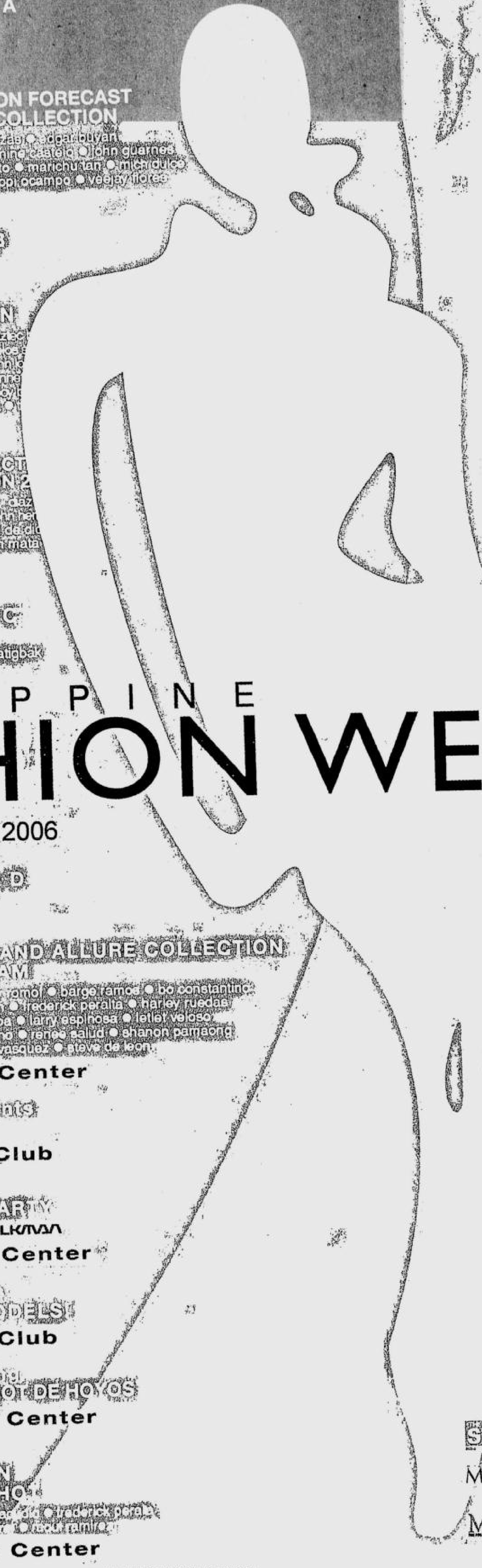
Glorietta Activity Center
THU April 6/ 6:00 pm
CALCARRIE'S presents
MODELS! MODELS! MODELS!

Embassy Supper Club
THU April 6/ 9:30 pm
TRIBAL PARTY featuring
NEW YORK CLUB DJ ELLIOT DE HOYOS

Glorietta Activity Center
FRI April 7/ 6:00 pm
SONY presents
PREMIER COLLECTION
captured by CYBER-SHOT
alex pigao ● anthony nocom ● avel bacudio ● frederick peralta
gerry katigbak ● lyle ibañez ● rajo laurel ● raoul ramirez

Glorietta Activity Center
SAT April 8/ 6:00 pm
READY TO WEAR COLLECTION SUMMER 2006

Glorietta Activity Center
SUN April 9/ 6:00 pm
PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK 2006 GRAND FINALE



Sony Ericsson

RUNWAY
PRODUCTIONS
RUNWAY PRODUCTIONS

CalCarrie's

SONY®

PRESENT

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

cal[illegible].com
calcarrie's international models philippines

AVON
COLOR

EA
Strictly Individual
Sydney-Manila-New York

[Modo]+

IN COOPERATION WITH

AYALA CENTER

WELLA

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM
OUR MEDIA PARTNERS AND
PARTICIPATING SPONSORS

STAR
BusinessMirror
The Manila Times
METRO
[illegible]
CHALK
pink
MEGA
Mr.&Ms.
MOD
Woman Today
MTV
105.1
NU 107
MAGIC 89.9
97.9

JOLOGSPALOOZA

By Chabs Rubio

WILL THE "JOLOGS" successfully invade primetime TV? The new GMA 7 show, "Jologs Guide," goes on air with a bang tomorrow night.

Host Ethel Booba researches the history behind the word *jologs* for this pilot episode. She visits various experts—all the while making a scene wherever she goes. She interviews tricycle drivers, UP professors, a young singer who supposedly began the *jologs* craze, and she even crashes a serious press briefing in Malacañang!

The three certified *jologs* hosts, Ethel, Pekto and Rainier then talk about how they made it big by being *jologs*. For the first time, the three share the secrets behind their success, and the *jologs* traits that helped them on the way up.

Finally, the hosts brave the ultimate *jologs* test … how to survive a high-end, social gathering. After training with society gurus Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Tim Yap, they are forced to face the elite crowds at a fashion show. Will they fit right in? Or will the *jologs* impostors be found out?

It's one crazy pilot episode for "Jologs Guide" airing this Sunday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. over GMA 7.

CALLING ALL JOLOGS. Rainier Castillo, Ethel Booba and Pekto will bombard your boob tube starting tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. on GMA 7.

Roland
Fantom X61
Sampling Workstation

Roland
WE DESIGN THE FUTURE

G. A. YUPANGCO & CO., INC.
339 Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City 1200
Tel. No.: 899-9595 (connecting all departments)
Fax Nos.: 899-7777 & 899-8888
Toll Free No.: 1-800-1-888-9595
E-mail: info@yupangco.com

Available at all Perfect Pitch Stores and select music dealers nationwide.

www.yupangco.com

For our 40TH ANNIVERSARY offer:
ONLY P 114,990 with FREE
Roland CM-30 Cube Monitor Amp 30W
Valid from March 16 - April 15, 2006

Avída
Affordable living at its best
an AyalaLand company

Ipo-ipong makulit.

'Yan ang baby ko.
Buti na lang, 'pag nagyaya ng "Out!"
madaling pagbigyan.
Pa'no, malapit sa lahat itong condo namin.
Sa park, sa mall, sa lahat ng puwedeng mapuntahan
at kailangang puntahan.
Konting sakay, konting lakad, "Out!" na kami.
Malapit din sa opisina kaya mas madaling umuwi.
Bawas oras sa daan.
Mas maraming oras para sa aking ipo-ipo.

Avída Towers
Sucat • New Manila • San Lazaro

AFFORDABILITY • VALUE • SECURITY

For as low as ₱9,000 a month

Standard Amenities: clubhouse • adult & kiddie swimming pools • jogging path • children's playground • 24-hour security • centralized water supply

Standard Facilities: main lobby • 2 elevator units • provision for telephone & cable connections • adequate emergency power • mailbox & drying cage per unit • garbage chute

www.avidaland.com • Call 864-5744

Avida renames New Manila & Sucat Towers

Popular condominium developments Aeropolis New Manila in Col. Bonny Serrano Ave. Quezon City and One Aeropolis Sucat at Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque, were recently renamed Avida Towers New Manila and Avida Towers Sucat, respectively.

The move follows the lead of Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI), the developer of both projects, which recently adopted Avida Land Corp. as its new corporate name.

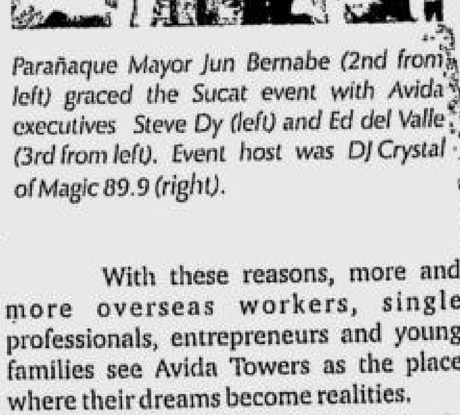
Offering studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units that range in price from P1 million to P3.2 million, Avida Towers New Manila and Avida Towers Sucat provide affordable living to middle-income families, Avida's target market.

The new names better reflect the position of the company in relation to its mission and the aspiration of its clients. Avida is a contraction of "Ave" meaning "to celebrate" and "vida" or "life". Studies have shown that clients of the former LPHI consider their homes as sources of pride and fulfillment – both good reasons to celebrate life, notes Dinna Bayangos, president of Avida. "Avida truly offers affordable living at its best," she says.

Aside from offering units that are built to last, the Avida Towers projects will be managed by Ayala Property Management Corp. (APMC), the Ayala Land subsidiary that maintains properties developed by the property giant and its subsidiaries. By managing building systems such as water and sewerage and overseeing key services such as security, APMC will ensure the upkeep of the Avida Towers.

Banking on the Ayala Land heritage of Avida, unit owners are assured that projects will be delivered as scheduled and that the company will stand by its commitment to homeowners long after the sales have been realized.

When they move into an Avida property, residents are provided with more than just a roof over their heads, but also a thriving community life through amenities that enhance bonding among residents. These include a social or community hall, a swimming pool, jogging paths, and Zen-inspired gardens where they can converge and celebrate life.



Parañaque Mayor Jun Bernabe (2nd from left) graced the Sucat event with Avida executives Steve Dy (left) and Ed del Valle (3rd from left). Event host was DJ Crystal of Magic 89.9 (right).

With these reasons, more and more overseas workers, single professionals, entrepreneurs and young families see Avida Towers as the place where their dreams become realities.

The renaming of its New Manila and Sucat condominium towers was marked with a Mardi Gras last March 11 and 12. The celebration of a new beginning served as the theme of the twin events marked by percussion performance, a magic show, refreshment, souvenir items and fun activities.

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The men of Ballet Philippines do a full-frontal in 'La Divina'

By Albert Pili
Photos by Jake Verzosa

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN when you catch "Diva," one of the dance creations which had its world premiere in Ballet Philippines' season ender Tango Filipino/La Divina.

The man to blame is Tony Fabella, considered as one of the leading masters of Philippine contemporary ballet, who created the very sexy Diva suite for Ballet Philippines. "This 15-minute number pushes the art of dance to its erotic border," an audience member was overheard saying.

The action happens towards the end of Diva, when topless male dancers stripped down to their thong dance belts!

Upwards to its climax, the female dancers all of a sudden pull off the dance belts of the male dance cast. A collective shriek from the audience is heard. The men of Ballet Philippines just went full frontal in what can be described as pivotal in Philippine stage history.

Interesting to note that this is the very first time that this sort of daring yet artistic act was done by a professional ballet dance company. MTRCB, take that.

Watch Ballet Philippines Tango Filipino/La Divina, on its last day today, March 18 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. Call 551-1003/551-0221/ or 832-3676 for tickets.

UPCAT REVIEW
ALSO FOR ATENEO*DE LA SALLE*UST & OTHER COLLEGES
✓ UP and ATENEO LECTURERS
✓ MANAGEABLE CLASS SIZE
✓ ONLINE ANALYSIS OF EXAMS
Reviews start on April 3 and 17 MWF
DILIMAN ACCESS ALSO OFFERS:
Science, English, Math, Tutorials
7475206 / 09209601729
"we bring high standard educational guidance close to you"
Venues:
Katipunan Student's Hub, Quezon City*
Cityland Pioneer, Mandaluyong*
* P 4,500 (60 HRS)
Makati City
Zabarte, Novaliches
Doña Manuela, Las Piñas City
Molino, Imus & Noveleta Cavite
BF Homes, Parañaque
Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Lipa & Batangas

Preparing to go to the prom?
Check out the BEAUTY SALONS classification in the
DPC YELLOW PAGES

MOTOROLA
How many MOTOSLVRs can you see?

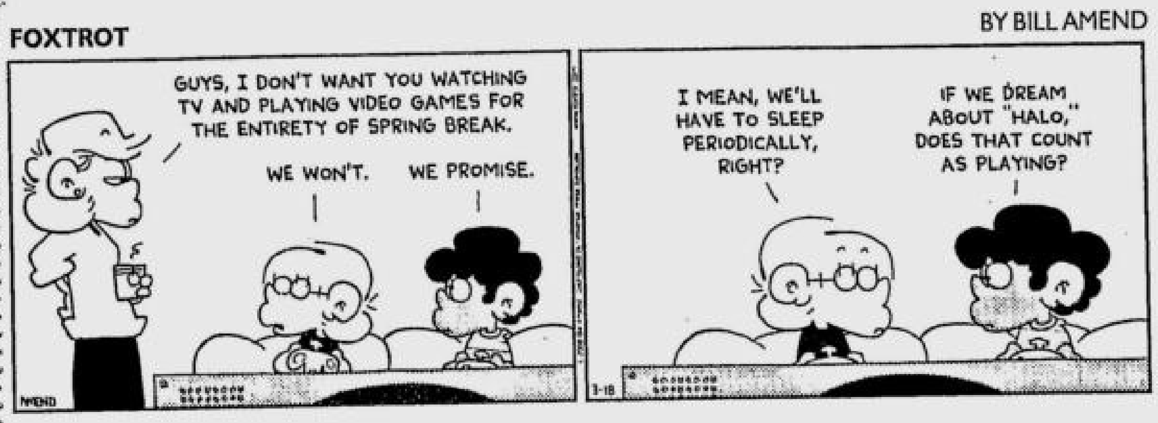
MOTOROLA
10.9mm
Camera and Video
Bluetooth

Text your answer to 2955 for an instant discount and a chance to win ultra slim prizes
To send your answer just text the following:
MOTOSLVR COUNT <Answer>
Ex. MOTOSLVR COUNT 50
For the Raffle, just text the following to join and register.
To Join: MOTOSLVR IMEI <IMEI No.>
Ex: MOTOSLVR IMEI 112245638910284
To Register: MOTOSLVR REG <full name>/<complete address>/<gender>
Ex: MOTOSLVR REG Jen Tan/1 Rizal St., Pasig City/F
So start texting! Promo runs from February 20 to March 31, 2006!

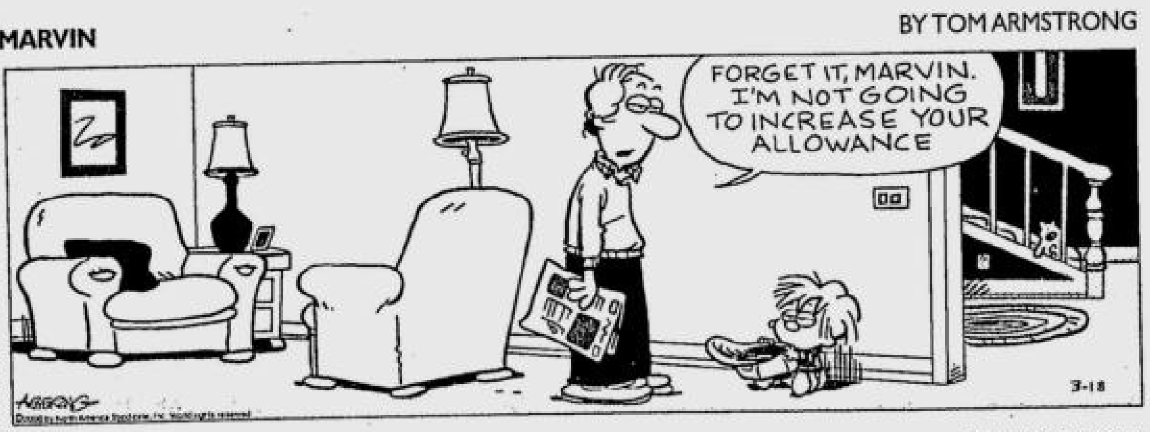
Win these ultra slim prizes
20 MotoRAZR V3s
20 iPod Nanos
13 Kodak V550s
5 Apple iBooks
2 32" JVC Flat Screen TVs

See flyers for more details. PER DTI-NCR Permit No. 0941 SERIES OF 2006
VISIT ANY OF MOTOROLA'S AUTHORIZED DEALERS FOR MORE INFORMATION. ABC STORE, ABENSON, AUDIONET, ADI TELECOM, BSD INTERNATIONAL, BUSY TONE, CELLWAVE TELECOM, CELLWORKS, CELLZONE, CLEARCOM, COMCENTER, COMWORKS, ELECTROWORLD, G-TELECOM, GLOBOTEL MOBILE LINKS, INC., GMI DIGITAL WORLD (SMS), GREENTELCOM, GUANZON MERCH., HELLO TELECOMS, HERRERA BROTHERS, JUNREX CELLPHONES AND ACCESSORIES, MATRIX, MEGA CELLULAR, MEMOXPRESS, MOBILE EXPERTS, MOBILE NETWORKS, NETSCAPE, NOVACELL, ORO GRAPHICS, INC., P. ALDANA, PAMPANGA CELLULAR SHOP/DG PHONE, PINES MULTI TELECOM SHOP, POS MARKETING ENTERPRISES, INC., QSL ELECTRONICS, QUALITY CELL, RC GOLDLINE, SAVE N' EARN, SEMICON, SHOPPERS MART, SIENA TELECOM, STAR SEARCH, TEKPHONE, TOUCHCOM, VIEWERS, WELLCOM TELECOM, WILTELCOM.

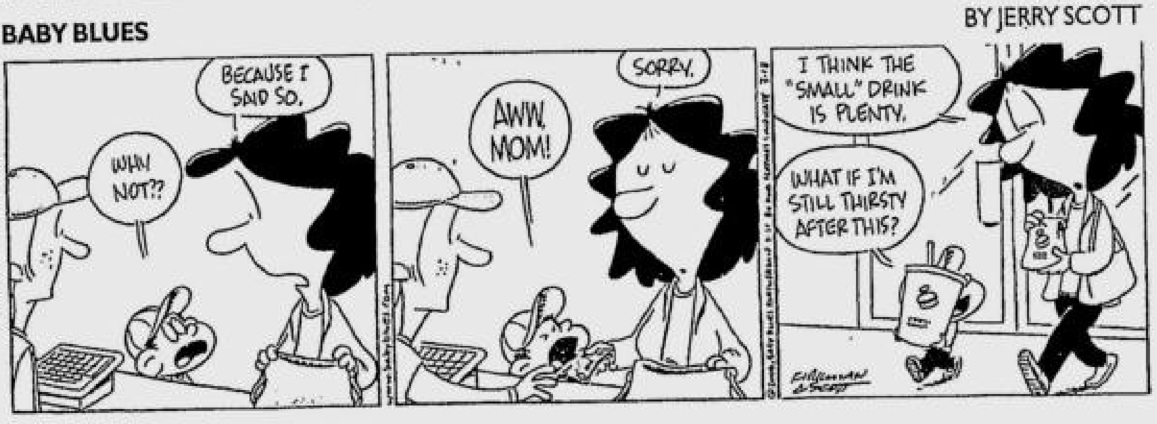
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


GUYS, I DON'T WANT YOU WATCHING TV AND PLAYING VIDEO GAMES FOR THE ENTIRETY OF SPRING BREAK.
WE WON'T.
WE PROMISE.
I MEAN, WE'LL HAVE TO SLEEP PERIODICALLY, RIGHT?
IF WE DREAM ABOUT "HALO," DOES THAT COUNT AS PLAYING?
3-18

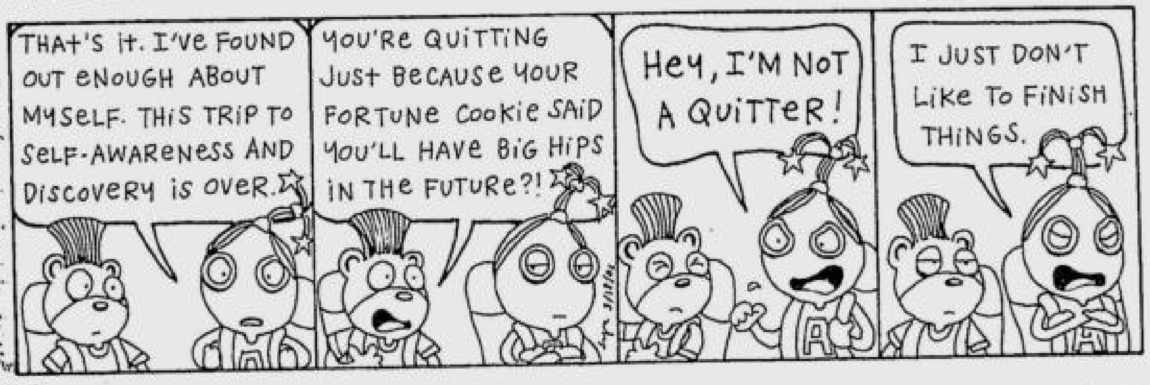
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


FORGET IT, MARVIN. I'M NOT GOING TO INCREASE YOUR ALLOWANCE
3-18

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


BECAUSE I SAID SO.
WHY NOT??
AWW, MOM!
SORRY.
I THINK THE "SMALL" DRINK IS PLENTY.
WHAT IF I'M STILL THIRSTY AFTER THIS?

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THAT'S IT. I'VE FOUND OUT ENOUGH ABOUT MYSELF. THIS TRIP TO SELF-AWARENESS AND DISCOVERY IS OVER.
YOU'RE QUITTING JUST BECAUSE YOUR FORTUNE COOKIE SAID YOU'LL HAVE BIG HIPS IN THE FUTURE?!
HEY, I'M NOT A QUITTER!
I JUST DON'T LIKE TO FINISH THINGS.

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have the confidence and power to pursue your dreams. (Not many do.) But you know when to wait and when to move. Plus, you're ambitious. You often play the role of mediator or the connector. Failure never daunts you. You don't give up. You're always charming and diplomatic. This year favors relationships and partnerships.

Birthdate of: Queen Latifah, singer/actress; Vanessa Williams, singer/actress; Bonnie Blair, speedskater.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Yesterday you felt very opinionated about things. Today you're ready to fight. Is it really worth it? Isn't it more important to keep your friendship with someone?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't get into a fight with somebody about money or possessions, because that is what you're tempted to do. This is not your style. (You generally lose your temper only once or twice in your lifetime!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're energetic, bold and (admit it) looking for a fight. To say you're looking is not entirely correct. But you certainly aren't going to back down from anything.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel indecisive today. Your two halves are talking to each other. The problem is, they don't agree, and you don't know which side will win.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have a strong difference of opinion with a friend today. You might even get in an argument about it. But anger serves no purpose except to make everyone miserable. Chill out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Squabbles with authority figures and partners are hard to avoid today. People are touchy. This is very bad timing. Wait until another day to discuss what you want to talk about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Disagreements with co-workers are likely today. If anybody crosses you, you will probably tell them off. You do like to keep the peace; nevertheless, you're not a doormat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Lovers' quarrels can arise today almost out of nothing. You're quick to take injury today. Do not assume that every questionable comment is a slight. Don't take things personally.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Family discussions are anything from a simple debate to an out-and-out fight today. People are touchy! Others are too ready to fight for their beliefs.

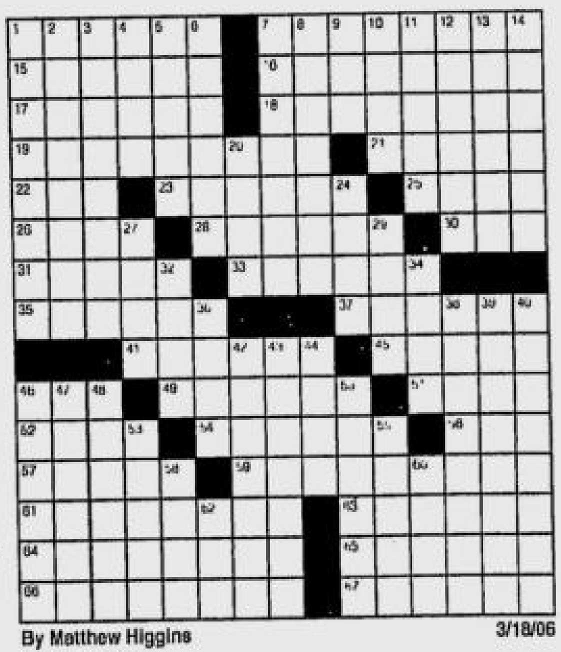
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an accident-prone day. Be careful when jogging, walking or driving. The reason it's accident-prone is because you might be distracted by impatience.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Arguments over the ownership of something are likely today. Perhaps you're upset about financial matters. Wait until another day to sort this out.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're ready to throw in the towel today. Whatever happens is the last straw. It's important to know that a lot of people feel like this today. Remain calm.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Reason by deduction
7 Green beryls
15 Hired killers
16 Northern Israeli
17 Having the power of flight
18 Former love
19 Ladylove
21 Bone cavity
22 E-mail punctuation
23 Spanish capital
25 Seven days
26 Bahrain ruler
28 Hangs in suspension
30 Crafty
31 Alternative beau
33 Coined money
35 Picturesque
37 Funeral tollings
41 Obituary page listings
45 "Silas Marner" author
46 Blackjack
49 Disengage
51 Greek covered walkway
52 Contemptible persons
54 Indian instruments
56 Ending of a belief
57 Spirit in "The Tempest"
59 Artifice used to gain an advantage
61 Compartment in a sleeping car
63 Abstruse
64 Advents
65 Doorway header
66 Nursery piece
67 Exceeds the limit



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
3/18/06

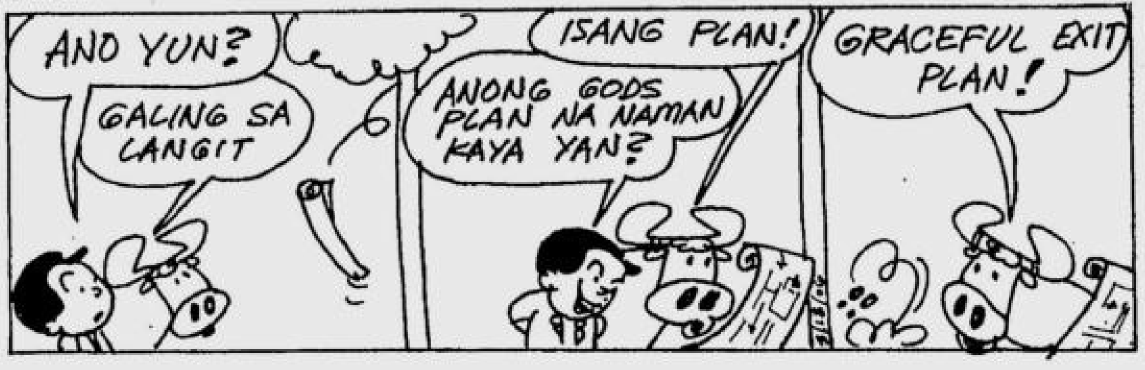
DOWN
1 Room screens
2 Financially rewarding
3 Having pertinence
4 Mosque leader
5 Malicious language
6 Draw into contradiction
7 Head-swelling experience
8 Feeling of discomfort
9 Aged, old-style
10 Repeated rhythmic phrase
11 Sanction
12 Tenants' contracts
13 Maiden
14 Underhanded
20 Fusses
24 Orlop, for one
27 "We the Living" author
29 Trigonometric function
32 Stead
34 Slippery catches
36 Fires
38 Contest at law
39 Untied
40 Coarse undergarment fabrics
42 Scotland's emblem
43 Most trendy
44 Fly high
46 Sacred beetle
47 Dawn goddess
48 Arrest record
50 South African stockades
53 Big rigs
55 Mall or mine preceder
58 Son of Leah
60 Skin problem
62 Soak up rays

Friday's Puzzle Solved

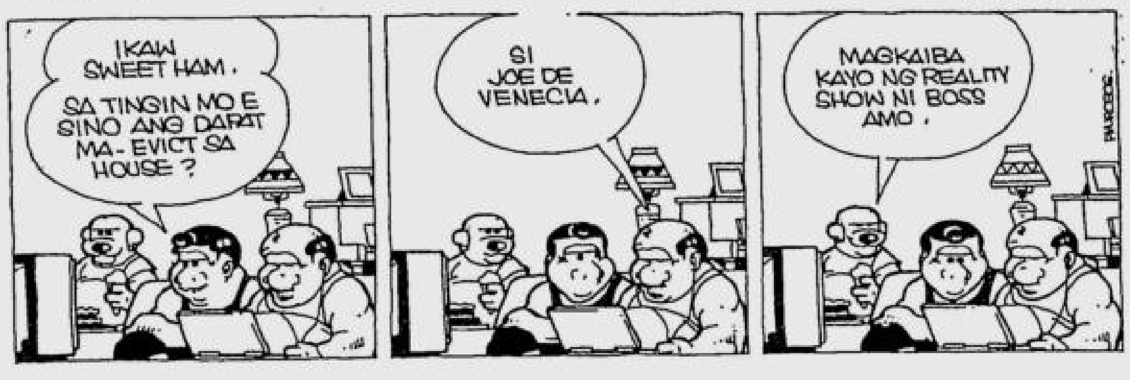
M	E	T	E	S	■	C	E	L	A	■	H	E	F	T
E	V	A	D	E	■	R	A	I	L	■	E	M	I	R
L	I	N	D	A	C	A	R	D	E	L	L	I	N	I
I	N	T	O	■	H	I	T	S	■	I	O	T	A	S
N	C	R	■	N	I	G	H	■	K	E	T	T	L	E
D	E	I	F	I	C	■	■	S	I	N	■	E	E	C
A	S	C	U	S	■	D	O	P	E	■	E	R	S	T
■	■	■	Z	I	V	A	D	A	V	I	D	■	■	■
D	U	C	E	■	A	I	D	S	■	D	I	C	T	A
E	N	E	■	A	S	S	■	■	A	L	T	A	I	R
S	C	R	A	P	E	■	G	L	U	E	■	V	E	E
I	L	E	N	E	■	A	R	O	D	■	R	I	C	O
R	O	B	E	R	T	D	A	V	I	D	H	A	L	L
E	A	R	N	■	V	I	D	E	■	E	E	R	I	E
S	K	A	T	■	S	T	E	R	■	W	E	E	P	S

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.
3/18/06

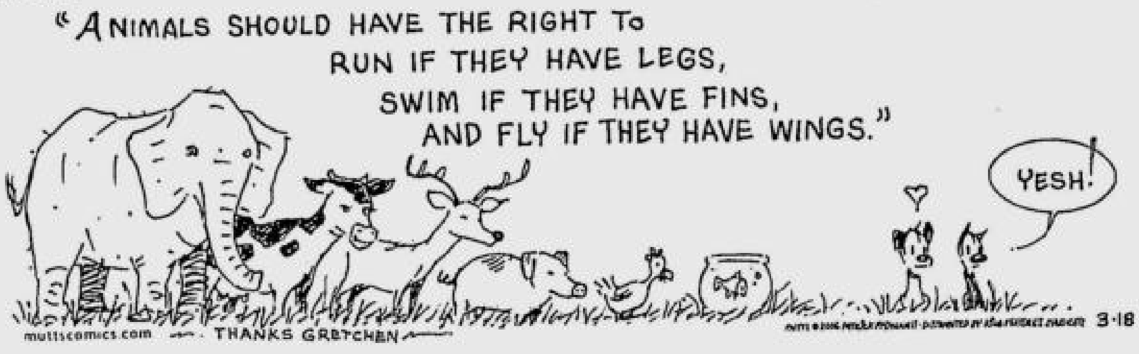
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


ANO YUN?
GALING SA LANGIT
ISANG PLAN!
ANONG GODS PLAN NA NAMAN KAYA YAN?
GRACEFUL EXIT PLAN!

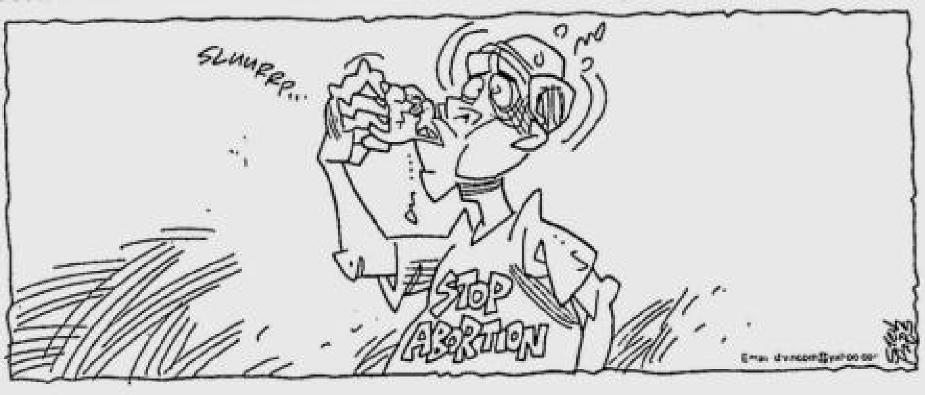
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


IKAW SWEET HAM.
SA TINGIN MO E SINO ANG DAPAT MA-EVICT SA HOUSE?
SI JOE DE VENECIA.
MAGKAIBA KAYO NG REALITY SHOW NI BOSS AMO.

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

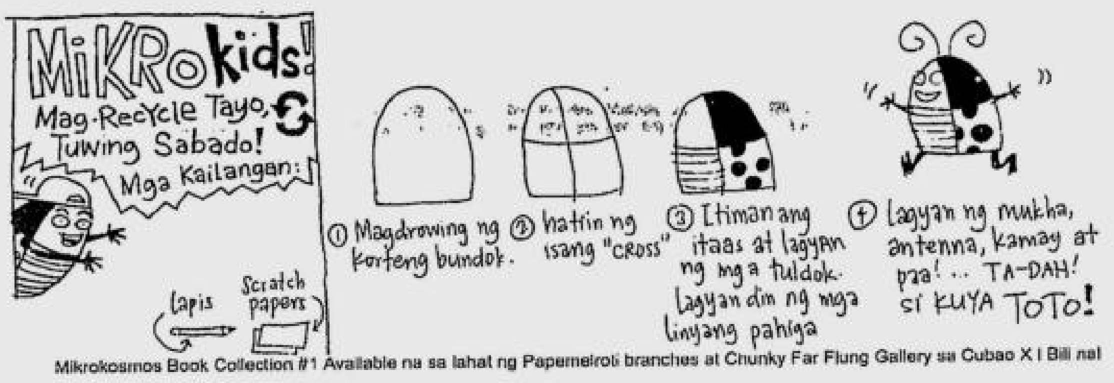

"ANIMALS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO RUN IF THEY HAVE LEGS, SWIM IF THEY HAVE FINS, AND FLY IF THEY HAVE WINGS."
YESH!
muttscomics.com
THANKS GRETCHEN
3-18

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SLUURRP...
STOP ABORTION

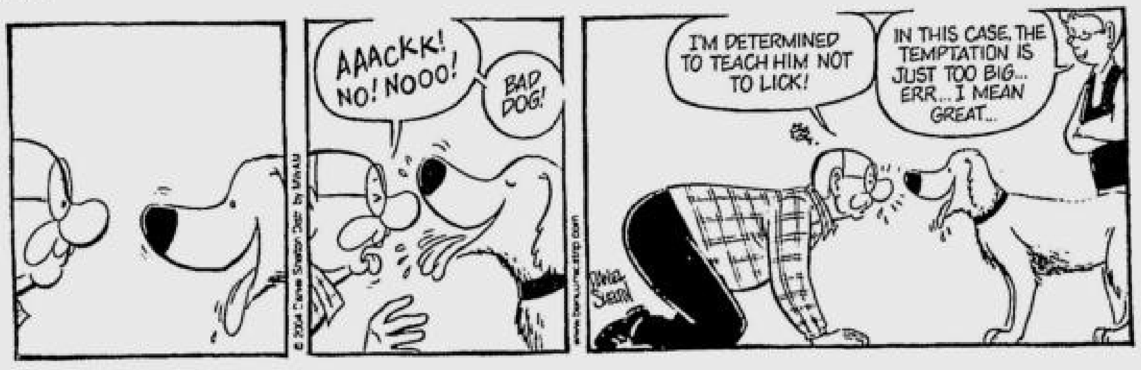
NAGKAKAROON NG "GUILT" ANG MGA PROLIFERS TUWING KUMAKAIN SILA NG BALUT

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

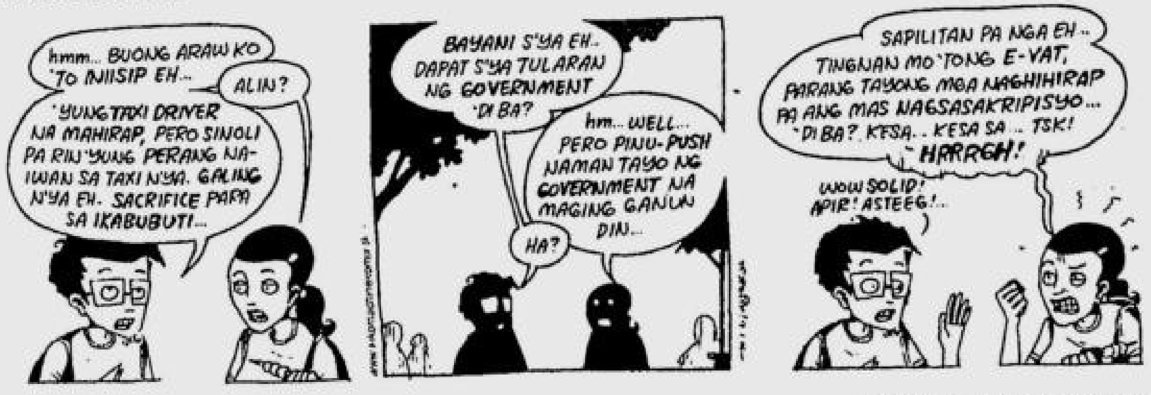

MiKROkids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
lapis
Scratch papers
① Magdrowing ng korteng bundok.
② hatiin ng isang "CROSS"
③ Itiman ang itaas at lagyan ng mga tuldok. Lagyan din ng mga linyang pahiga
④ Lagyan ng mukha, antenna, kamay at paa! ... TA-DAH! si KUYA TOTO!

Mikrokosmos Book Collection #1 Available na sa lahat ng Papemelroti branches at Chunky Far Flung Gallery sa Cubao X ! Bili na!

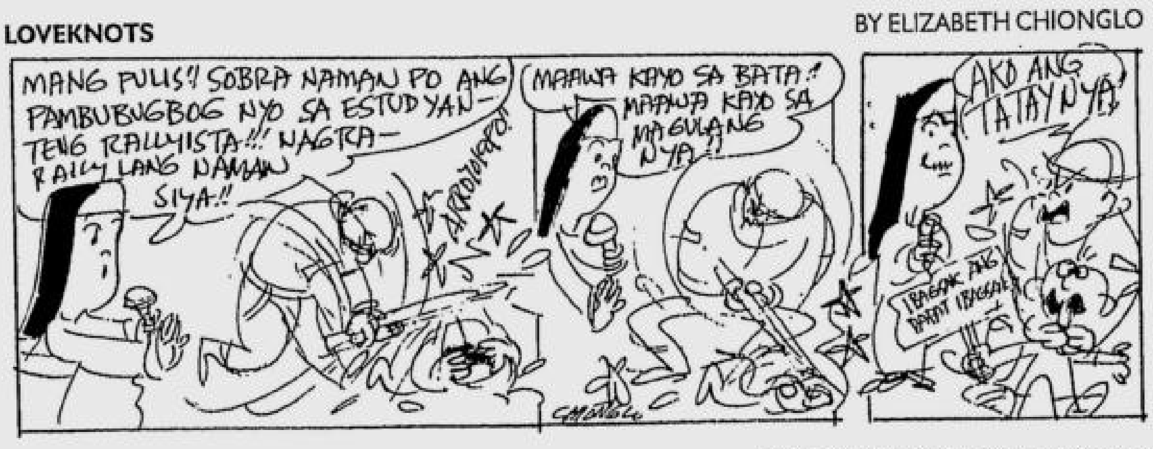
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAACKK! NO! NOOO!
BAD DOG!
I'M DETERMINED TO TEACH HIM NOT TO LICK!
IN THIS CASE, THE TEMPTATION IS JUST TOO BIG... ERR... I MEAN GREAT...

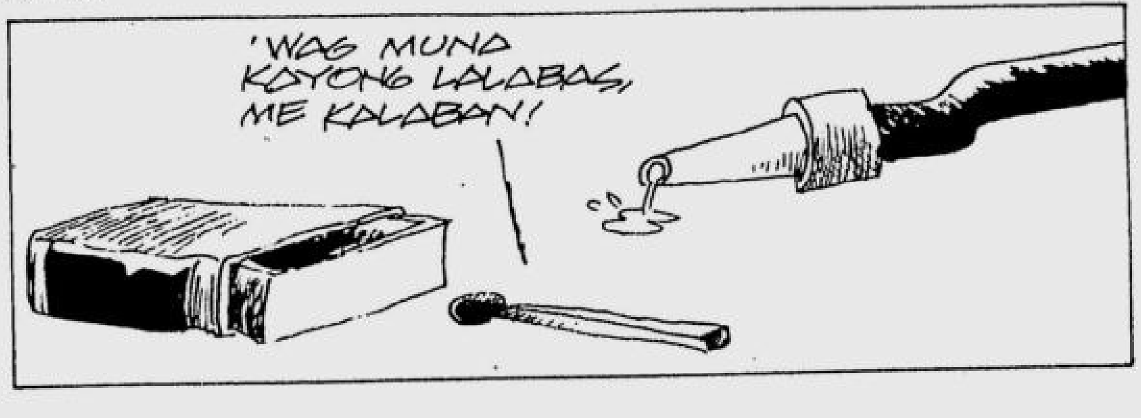
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


hmm... BUONG ARAW KO 'TO INIISIP EH...
ALIN?
'YUNG TAXI DRIVER NA MAHIRAP, PERO SINOLI PA RIN 'YUNG PERANG NAIWAN SA TAXI NYA. GALING N'YA EH. SACRIFICE PARA SA IKABUBUTI...
BAYANI S'YA EH.. DAPAT S'YA TULARAN NG GOVERNMENT 'DI BA?
hm... WELL... PERO PINU-PUSH NAMAN TAYO NG GOVERNMENT NA MAGING GANUN DIN...
HA?
SAPILITAN PA NGA EH.. TINGNAN MO 'TONG E-VAT, PARANG TAYONG MGA NAGHIHIRAP PA ANG MAS NAGSASAKRIPISYO... 'DI BA? KESA.. KESA SA... TSK!
HRRRGH!
WOW SOLID! APIR! ASTEEG!..

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

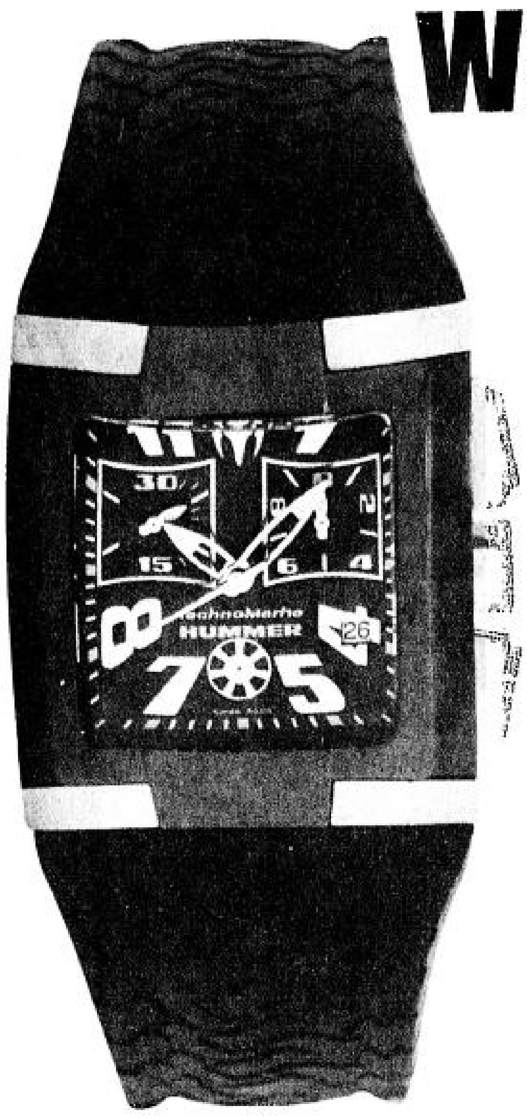

MANG PULIS! SOBRA NAMAN PO ANG PAMBUBUGBOG NYO SA ESTUDYANTENG RALLYISTA!!! NAGRA-RALLY LANG NAMAN SIYA!!
MAAWA KAYO SA BATA!! MAAWA KAYO SA MAGULANG NYA!!
AKO ANG TATAY NYA!

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG MUNA KOYONG LALABAS, ME KALABAN!

SUPER! SELECTION

Watch the road!

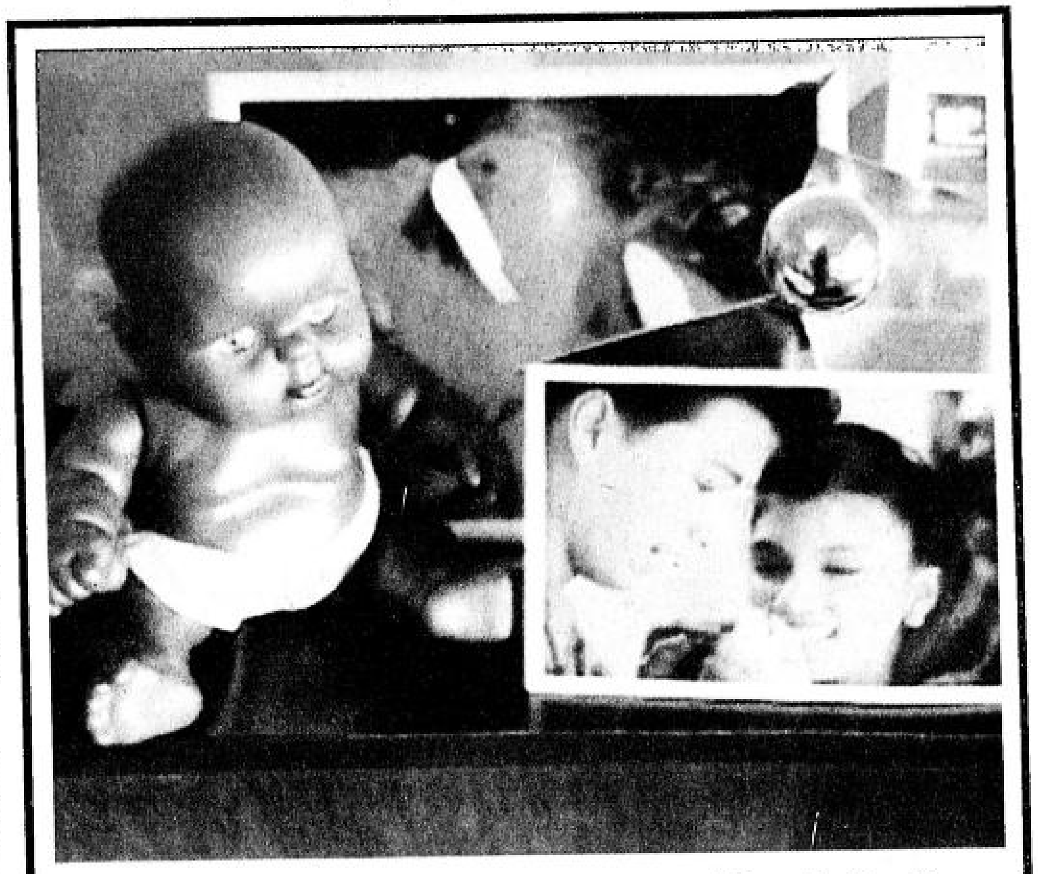


By Albert Pili

IF YOU'VE GOT A HUMMER OR YOU'RE THINKING about owning one, how about a watch to match? You'll always be in the driver's seat with TechnoMarine's new Hummer watch that packs in a whole lot of attitude in its super-sized design. This timepiece takes its inspiration right from the road to the wrist. This Hummer watch features design elements straight from the vehicle including a tire-tread rubber strap, signature seven-spoke rim seconds movement and a 43-mm case reminiscent of the Hummer grille. Leave it to TechnoMarine to push the envelope and conjure up a winner.

Go on, take it for a spin. You'll love the way this Hummer watch handles and hugs the wrist. You'll also marvel at its performance, just like the off-road vehicle. But we're talking watches, not trucks. The sleek, two-tone stainless steel/black PVD case houses a genuine Swiss chronograph movement. The watch is water resistant to 330 feet.

TechnoMarine Hummer watch is available at TechnoMarine Flagship Store, Greenbelt 3 (Tel. No. 7573975); TechnoMarine Boutique, SM Megamall (Tel. No. 6317491); Rafael Jewellery, Edsa Shangri-la Plaza Mall (Tel. No. 6363398), Rafael Jewellery, Makati Shangri-la Hotel (Tel. No. 8138501), My Diamond, Glorietta 4 (Tel. No. 7571086); My Diamond, Gateway Mall, (Tel. No. 9124013), My Tempo, SM City North Edsa (Tel. No. 9277620) Time Plus 75, Greenhills Theater Mall (Tel. No. 7217868); and Washington Rockwell, Powerplant Mall (Tel. No. 8982288). For additional information, you may visit www.technomarine.com.



Welcome home, Robin!

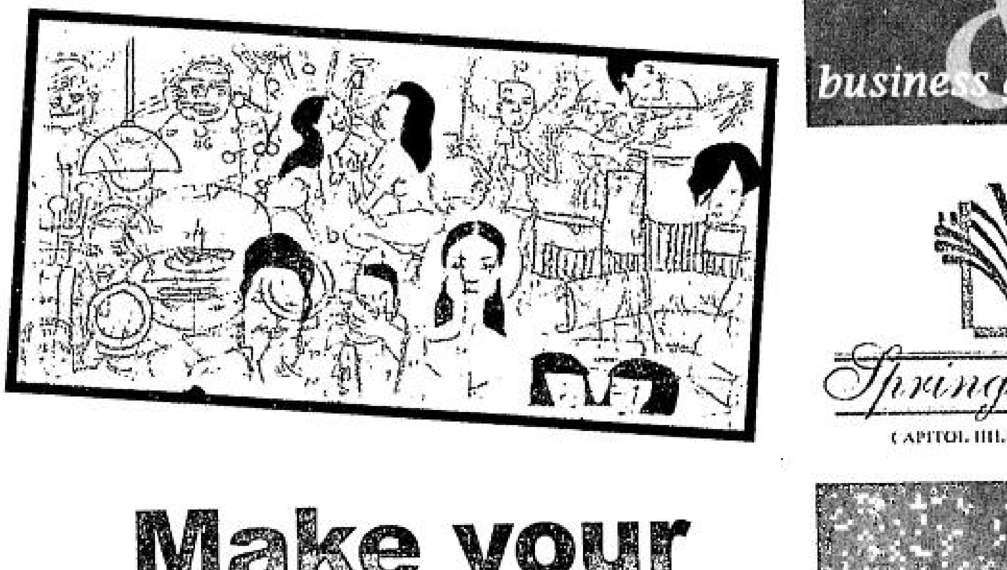
ROBIN DA ROZA IS BACK ON THE BOOB tube. He welcomes us into celebrity cribs each week via "Welcome Home."

"Welcome Home" is the story of a home as told by its homeowner.

"It's about character and personality, reflecting the homeowner's personal taste and style," said Robin as he opened a new door to his new home.

Sundays, 11:30 a.m. on Studio 23. Hosted by Robin da Roza.

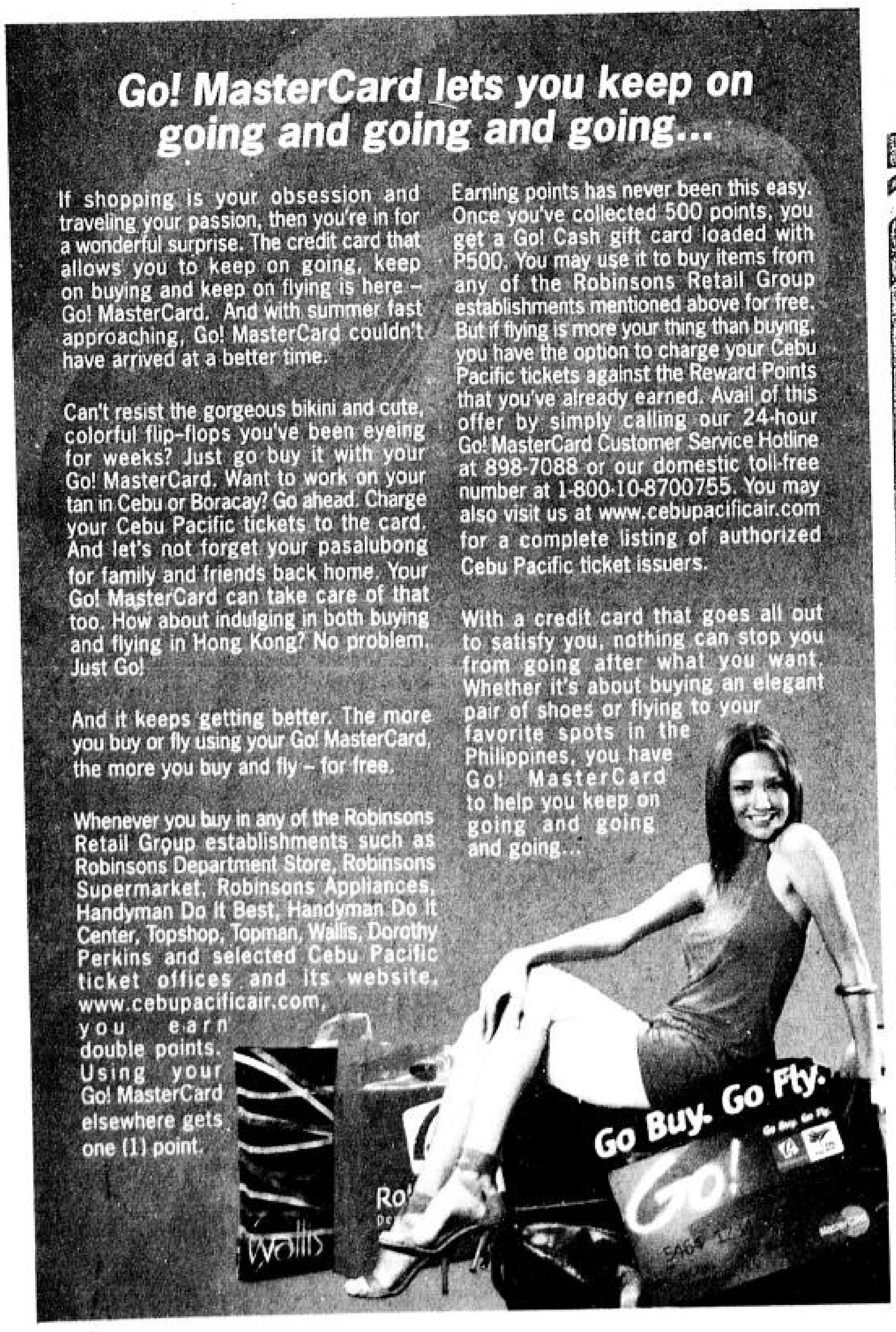
A Moss exciting exhibit



SUPER!'S favorite artist delivers the punch on Philippine monetary matters and puns on Pinoy pop culture, something right up his artistic sleeve. Jason Moss' 16th one man exhibit, entitled "Living in centavos" opens on March 20 and runs until April 21 at Pablo, Marikina Shoe Expo, Cubao Quezon City. Super! fans will not be disappointed.

Make your wedding day memorable.
Find the right FLORIST for you in the
DPC YELLOW PAGES

Watch your family & business grow here!
Spring Country
CAPITOL HILLS, QUEZON CITY
Venus house model • 157 sqm. usable floor area
Also available house models:
Marigold house model
63 sqm. usable floor area
Magnolia house model
47 sqm. usable floor area
HOW TO GET THERE: From Commonwealth Avenue, turn right at Batasan Road until you reach the Batasan Road Extension. Turn left upon seeing the Petron Gas Station. Go straight until you reach Filhomes II Gate 1. Follow directional signs to Spring Country.
LTS No.: 96-01-2772
Call us!
721-0771
A quality project of
CORTE BELLA
The Metro Homes Division of
FILINVEST LAND, INC.
www.filinvestland.com
GRAND OPEN HOUSE TODAY 9 am - 4 pm at Spring Country


Go! MasterCard lets you keep on going and going and going...

If shopping is your obsession and traveling your passion, then you're in for a wonderful surprise. The credit card that allows you to keep on going, keep on buying and keep on flying is here – Go! MasterCard. And with summer fast approaching, Go! MasterCard couldn't have arrived at a better time.

Can't resist the gorgeous bikini and cute, colorful flip-flops you've been eyeing for weeks? Just go buy it with your Go! MasterCard. Want to work on your tan in Cebu or Boracay? Go ahead. Charge your Cebu Pacific tickets to the card. And let's not forget your pasalubong for family and friends back home. Your Go! MasterCard can take care of that too. How about indulging in both buying and flying in Hong Kong? No problem. Just Go!

And it keeps getting better. The more you buy or fly using your Go! MasterCard, the more you buy and fly – for free.

Whenever you buy in any of the Robinsons Retail Group establishments such as Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Appliances, Handyman Do It Best, Handyman Do It Center, Topshop, Topman, Wallis, Dorothy Perkins and selected Cebu Pacific ticket offices and its website, www.cebupacificair.com, you earn double points. Using your Go! MasterCard elsewhere gets one (1) point.

Earning points has never been this easy. Once you've collected 500 points, you get a Go! Cash gift card loaded with P500. You may use it to buy items from any of the Robinsons Retail Group establishments mentioned above for free. But if flying is more your thing than buying, you have the option to charge your Cebu Pacific tickets against the Reward Points that you've already earned. Avail of this offer by simply calling our 24-hour Go! MasterCard Customer Service Hotline at 898-7088 or our domestic toll-free number at 1-800-10-8700755. You may also visit us at www.cebupacificair.com for a complete listing of authorized Cebu Pacific ticket issuers.

With a credit card that goes all out to satisfy you, nothing can stop you from going after what you want. Whether it's about buying an elegant pair of shoes or flying to your favorite spots in the Philippines, you have Go! MasterCard to help you keep on going and going and going...
Go Buy. Go Fly.
Go!
Wallis

Go buy more. Go fly more.
Use your Go! MasterCard. Earn more points and go get a Go! Cash gift card so you can keep on going, keep on buying or flying for free.
Apply now for a Go! MasterCard. Application forms are available at Robinsons retail establishments and authorized Cebu Pacific ticket offices. You may also call 898-7088 for more details.
ANZ
Issued by Metrobank Card Corporation, a joint venture of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company and ANZ

herbench/
Made in Paradise
Bench Made in Paradise

Free!

Bench Summer Catalogue for a minimum single receipt purchase worth Php 800 in selected Bench, Herbench, and Bench Body stores.

PROMO PERIOD: Feb 25 to April 2, 2006

MECHANICS:
1. For a minimum single receipt purchase of Php 800 in Bench, Herbench, Bench Body, a customer is entitled to (1) FREE Bench Made in Paradise Summer Catalogue.
2. Only one (1) Bench Summer Made in Paradise Catalogue will be given away to every customer who makes a single purchase worth at least Php 800 or more.
3. Credit card & gift check purchase and sale items are valid as long as the minimum required amount is met.
4. Bench employee P.O. and Bench Time purchase (Men's and Ladies watches) are not valid for the promo.

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0945 Series of 2006.

TIESTOMONIALS

DJ JESSIE SUACO

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NEVER heard of the man. (Tiesto) He is one of the best DJs in the world! This man has topped the DJ Mag awards for past three years and it doesn't look like he's willing to give up the crown just yet! Tiesto is the total entertainment package, good music, stunning visuals and unmatched showmanship. Every dance music fan should hope to see him perform live at least once in their life. Tiesto is the Rolling Stone of dance music.

JM RODRIGUEZ

EVERY TIESTO event is a unique experience. A true crowd pleaser, he plays solely for his audience's enjoyment. I like his music 'coz it's not heavy trance. He plays tracks with a lot of vocals and his productions are astounding and he adapts to the crowd.

JIGGER ANTONIO

EACH TIME, IT SEEMED THAT THE places reached its legal limit in terms of the number of people attending. The clubs were always full and packed to the brim! The energy was intense, everyone was in high spirits, the production sets were elaborate, and the vibe was simply unbeatable. He started his sets with his some of his new tracks, then went on to play more progressive trance and ended with popular remixed versions of his classics like lethal industry, adagio for strings, urban train, eternal voices, flight 643, and Nyana. I am glad that Manila can finally get a chance to experience the King of trance and the living legend that is DJ Tiesto!

DJ CAO

WE CAN'T wait for Tiesto's set! We are curious to see why he is DJ Mag's No. 1 DJ in the world! We are also excited for the Manila crowd to be able to experience this event!

Brittany's
The Islands' Masterplan:

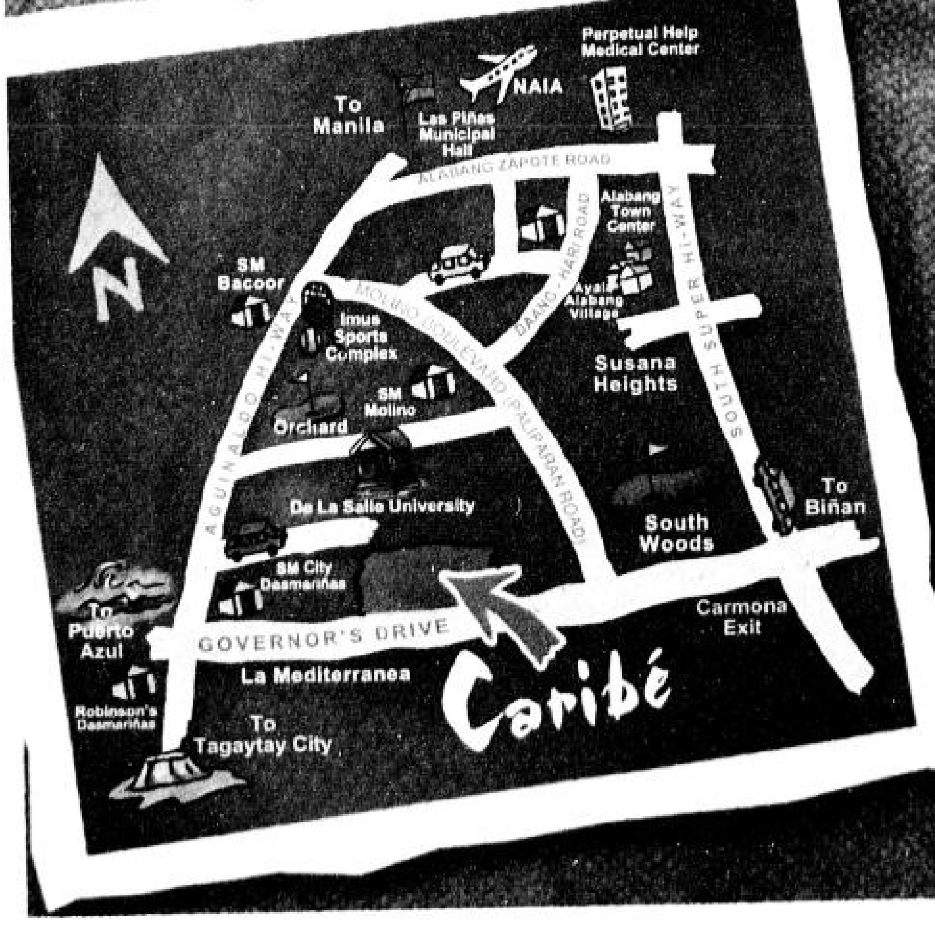
A key element to The Islands masterplan, the architecture is inspired by the great island homes across the world.

Big Plans For A Life Of Playful Leisure

Spanning an expansive 130-hectare landscape, The Islands is the only development in Dasmariñas masterplanned to a large scale.

Space Full Of Wonders

I wonder if she would like the color white in our bedroom...
I wonder what delicious dish she will cook up tonight...
I wonder what movie we'll watch here later...
I wonder if we could still dance in the living room like before...
I wonder if there's any other home like ours.

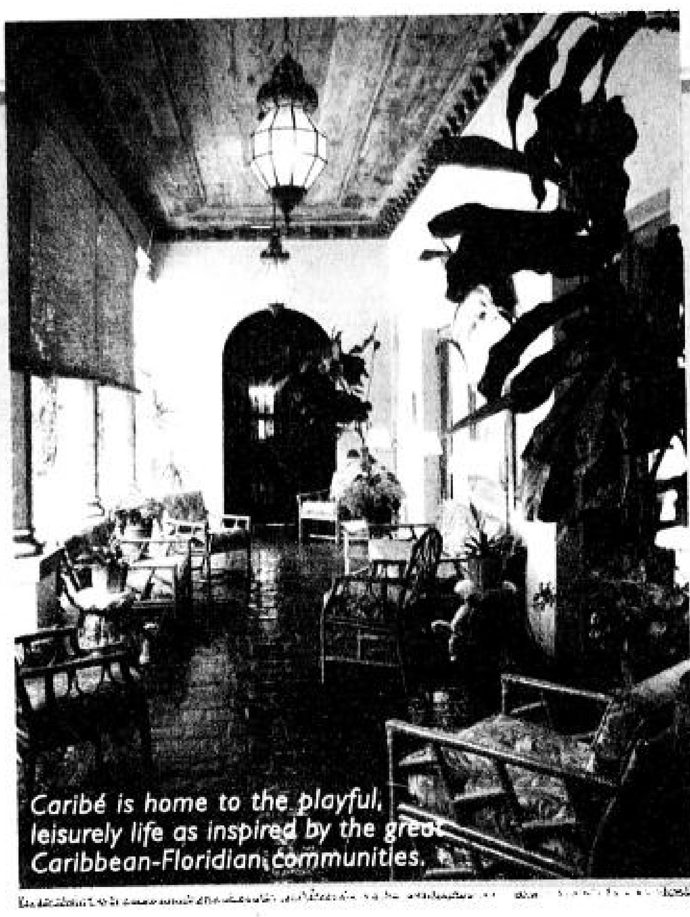

Perpetual Help Medical Center
NAIA
To Manila
Las Piñas Municipal Hall
ALABANG ZAPOTE ROAD
Alabang Town Center
DAANG HARI ROAD
Ayala Alabang Village
SOUTH SUPER HI-WAY
SM Bacoor
MOLINO BOULEVARD
Imus Sports Complex
AGUINALDO HI-WAY
SM Molino
Susana Heights
Orchard
PALIPARAN ROAD
De La Salle University
To Biñan
South Woods
SM City Dasmariñas
To Puerto Azul
GOVERNOR'S DRIVE
Carmona Exit
La Mediterranea
Caribé
Robinson's Dasmariñas
To Tagaytay City

Single-storey. Sprawling. With an open floor plan. Providing more room for possibilities and allowing you freedom to live your kind of life. Your home in Caribé—simply wonderful.

Get a Property Preview.
Call 850 2868 or 850 6986
or click www.brittany.com.ph

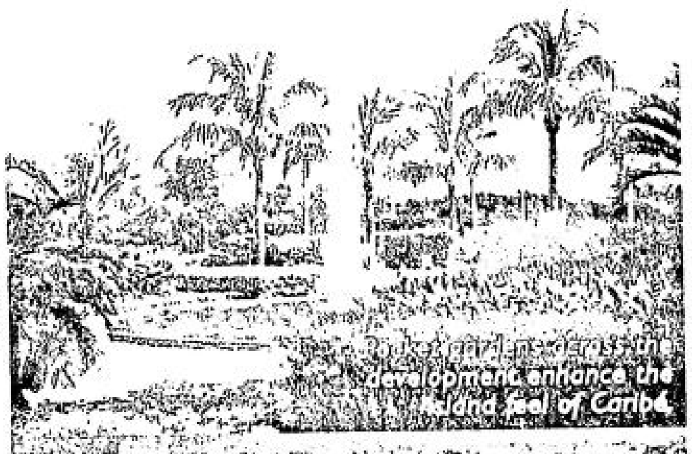
Caribé
at THE ISLANDS
Life at your own rhythm

Brittany
CORPORATION

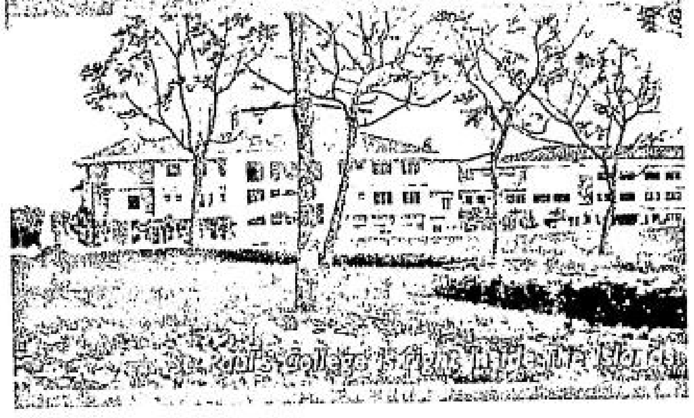


Caribé is home to the playful, leisurely life as inspired by the great Caribbean-Floridian communities.

The Islands is composed of various exclusive enclaves. Ibiza, completed and sold out, is one of the bigger enclaves with its custom home sites offering minimum lot areas of 400 sq.m. Island Park, another completed project, offers homes and lot packages and custom home sites. Montego, a private, exclusive enclave rises as one of the new developments. Amalfi offers home and lot packages for the family starting out in life. The latest development, Caribé, takes after the great Caribbean-Floridian communities of the world. Each enclave offers its own unique interpretation of island life. And it's all set against wide open spaces, in a community of colorful island enclaves where you have more room to roam and places to play across the vast landscape.



Pocket gardens across the development enhance the island feel of Caribé.



St. Paul's College is right inside The Islands

As envisioned by maverick developer Brittany Corporation, The Islands puts together multi-faceted island-like communities in one vast *Lifescape™*...

The Caribbean-Floridian atmosphere: the perfect setting for enjoying life's best moments

CLUB ISLAND

At the very heart of The Islands, Club Island rises as the country club complete with leisure must-haves in a quaint, tropical setting. A free-form pool, interspersed with cabanas, tropical gardens, butterfly sanctuaries and palm trees, surround the clubhouse. The grand ballroom readily accommodates 300 persons. Club Island embodies The Islands' environment of playful leisure. And very soon, membership will be offered for enjoying the club life–island style.

PASEO PARK

Open to homeowners, neighborhood amenities–a wide range of sports and recreation facilities–are clustered together in Paseo Park.

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE

One of the country's premier schools, St. Paul's College is right within The Islands, presently offering quality education from elementary to high school levels.

With The Islands, big plans are currently underway—a grand masterplan for island life.

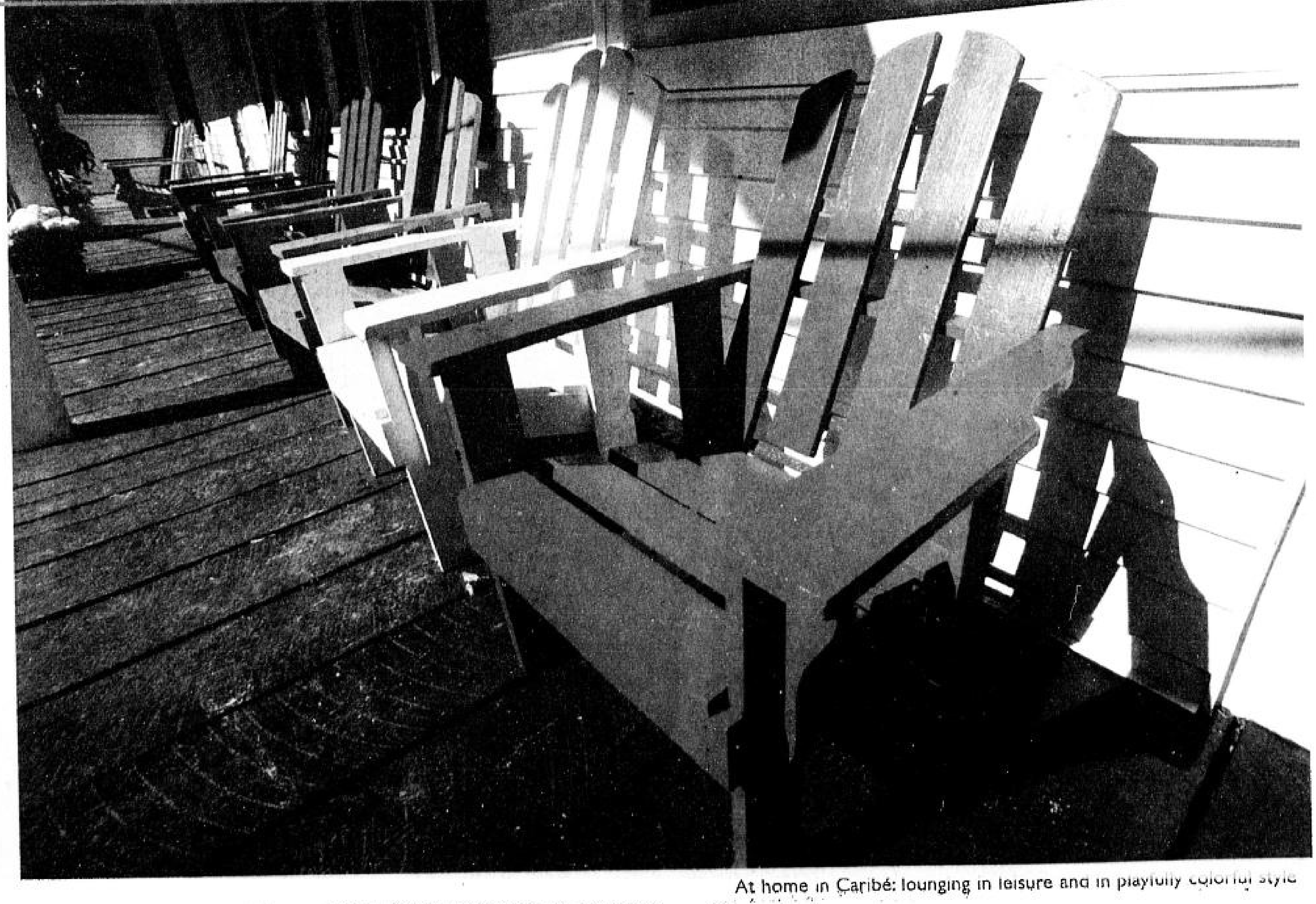
Inspired by the great Caribbean-Floridian communities of the world, Caribé offers single-storey homes perfect for life at its most leisurely. It features an open floor plan, making it seem as if one room flows seamlessly to the next.

Less walls, more possibilities: the open floor area offers freedom to turn the home's space into any type of living area you want.

Caribé The Perfect Setting For The Leisurely Rhythm Of Life

Designed specifically for the master of the house, Caribé's sprawling homes have less walls that hinder movement, for more freedom to do as you want. It is exactly the kind of home for the couple who are done with the responsibilities of family and career; the couple who are about to enjoy the best times of life.

Completing the Caribbean-Floridian character, homes are accented with playfully colored and textured walls, gabled facades, shuttered windows and doors, wooden floors and coffered ceilings. With Caribé, you have a home that provides for a life in which the pace is a bit more unhurried, a bit more playful. It is the perfect setting for the leisurely rhythm of life.



At home in Caribé: lounging in leisure and in playfully colorful style

FINDING THE ISLANDS

A Leisurely Location

You have 3 main entry points to The Islands. The latest is via the newly opened Molino Boulevard...you can also opt to take the Southwoods or Carmona interchange via SLEX.

With its central location—a vital element of its grand masterplan—everything is close to you at Caribé, the latest enclave of The Islands.

Located along Governor's Drive in progressive Dasmariñas, Caribé and The Islands are near everything one needs in life.

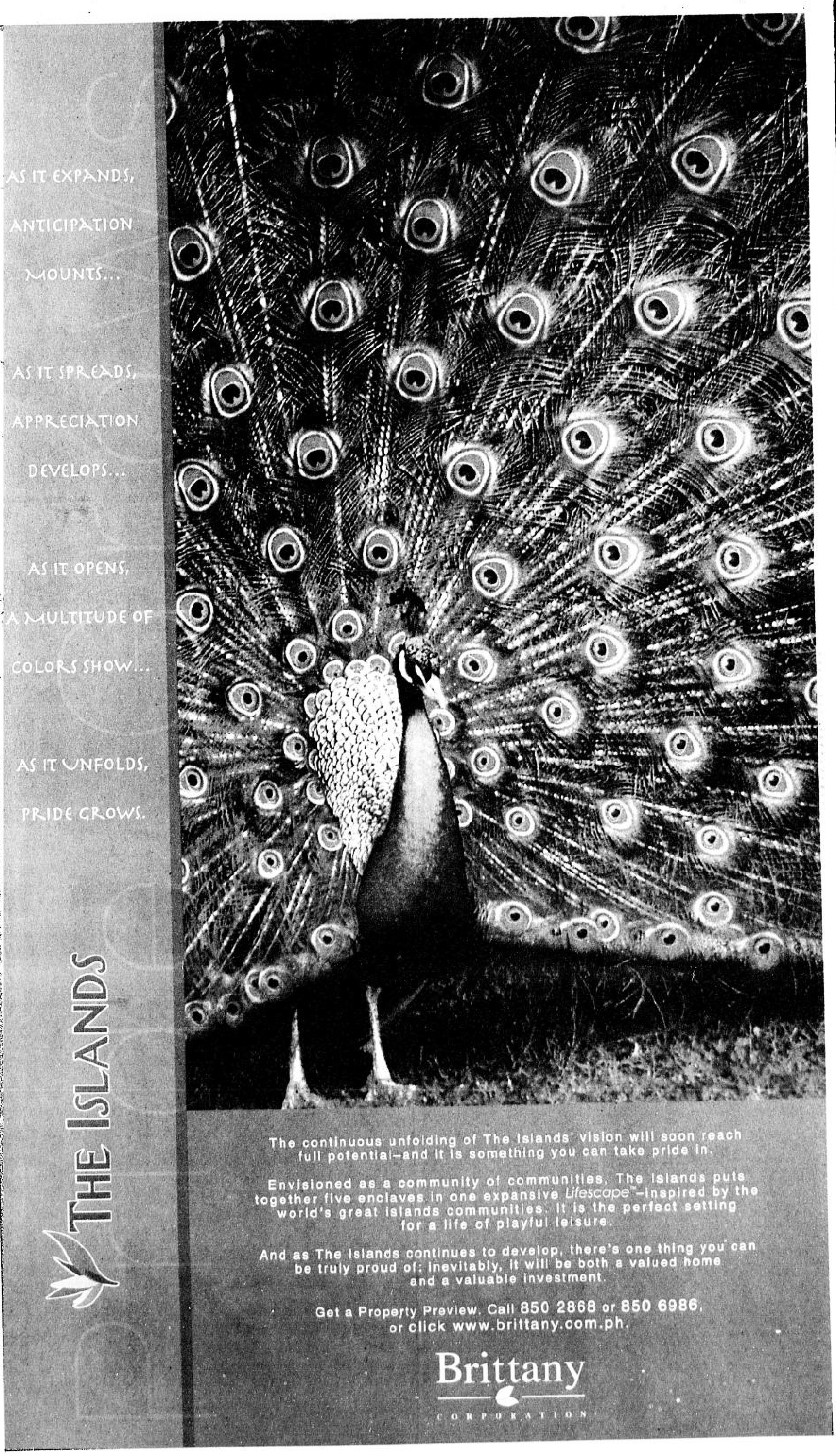
You have 3 main entry points to The Islands. The latest is via the newly opened Molino Boulevard, making The Islands more accessible than ever before. You can also opt to take the Southwoods or Carmona interchange via SLEX.

Everything you need in life is practically a hop and skip away.

A short drive takes you to your choice of malls–SM City Dasmariñas, SM Molino, and Robinsons Dasmariñas. Offices, schools and other establishments of the Alabang business and commercial centers are also close to The Islands.

In 15 minutes, you can enjoy the cool air, scenic views and leisure destinations of Tagaytay. The beaches of Batangas are near as well.

With The Islands and Caribé masterplanned in a central location, everything you need in life is at a leisurely distance right nearby.



The continuous unfolding of The Islands' vision will soon reach full potential–and it is something you can take pride in.

Envisioned as a community of communities, The Islands puts together five enclaves in one expansive *Lifescape*™–inspired by the world's great islands communities. It is the perfect setting for a life of playful leisure.

And as The Islands continues to develop, there's one thing you can be truly proud of: inevitably, it will be both a valued home and a valuable investment.

Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986, or click www.brittany.com.ph.

Brittany
CORPORATION

CROWN Amalfi

Crown Asia, the country's biggest homebuilder, has just completed another signature project in addition to its long list of world-class communities. Welcome to Amalfi, where everyday is a holiday.

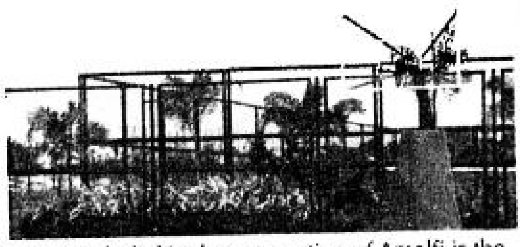
As one of the blissful clusters of The Islands located at the flourishing area of Dasmariñas Cavite, it brings into its folds the beauty of nature and cozy atmosphere perfected with superb amenities. Just like living in an exclusive resort. And more fun will come your way as Amalfi is now finished with paved roads and green parks. Picturesque Italian-inspired homes are also up and ready to complement your tasteful lifestyle.

Your Everyday Holiday Dream House at The Islands – Now Ready to Suit Your Lifestyle

Within the stylish enclave of The Islands emerges a sophisticated Italian resort-like residential community - Amalfi.

This masterplanned community lets you experience holiday retreat 365 days a year right at the comfort of your home. With its warm and resort-like ambience, surrounded by a scenic view of a landscaped panorama, enjoy a daily dose of refreshing atmosphere with your family or a passionate interlude with your better half.

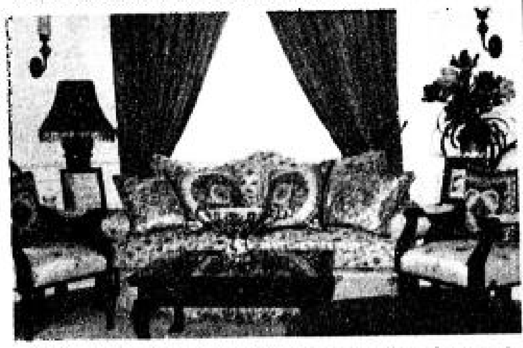
Still to content your desire for grandeur and luxury, spend the rest of the day flexing your muscles at the sports complex. Intended as a series of multipurpose playing courts, you can shoot a basket, volley a ball and whack a shuttlecock whenever you please. Or if you can't stand the heat, go for a splash and cool down at the swimming pool.



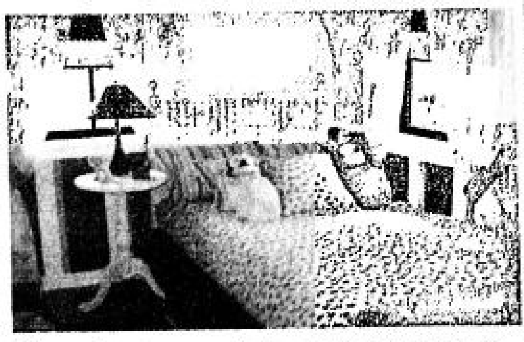
Also included in the preparation of Amalfi is the clubhouse. It is situated right at the center of the property where you can hold a variety of activities with its comprehensive party amenities. And when the day is over and your energy is spent, you can always sit back and relax at your balcony, underneath a breathtaking moonlit sky.

Crown Jewels: Italian-Inspired Homes

Amalfi boasts of its own precious gems: ***Jade, Sapphire and Ruby.*** Three beautifully crafted homes with a minimum lot area of 88 square meters to a generous 300++ square meters, all with distinct styles inspired by the masterful craft of Italian architecture. For your viewing appreciation, all model homes are now available at the site.



Each unit maintains the five core values of Crown Asia: a collection of homes that are ideal for families seeking for comfort, serenity and security amid a lush-green environment. To sustain maximum consumer satisfaction, Amalfi homes are priced practically within reach of every budget-conscious family.



According to your taste and family lifestyle, there is a residence available for you to fit in. Be in one of these jewels and give your life added prestige and luster.

Strategic Location

Amalfi can be easily reached through 3 major thoroughfares: via the Aguinaldo Highway, Daang Hari-Molino Road and via SLEX Southwoods to Carmona exit.

St. Paul College is located within the vicinity of The Islands so your kids won't have a hard time going to and from school. Other institutional establishments are also within reach such as the Asian Hospital, Imus Medical Center, De La Salle University and other exclusive schools. And if you're looking for a place to unwind, it is good to know that Tagaytay and Enchanted Kingdom are just a few minutes away.

From its existing entrance along Governor's Drive in Dasmariñas Cavite, another entrance will soon be opened along Molino Road. This will give easy access to commercial establishments such as the SM malls, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall and other shopping centers within the area.

Amalfi is situated on a distinctive area that leads to all routes of destination. A resort-like setting surrounded by urbanized lifestyle, yet maintaining exclusivity and a peaceful ambience. So get your gears ready because it's going to be a great day out all year round at Amalfi.

For more information, contact Crown Asia at tel. nos. **873-1614, 871-3882** and **873-8412** today.

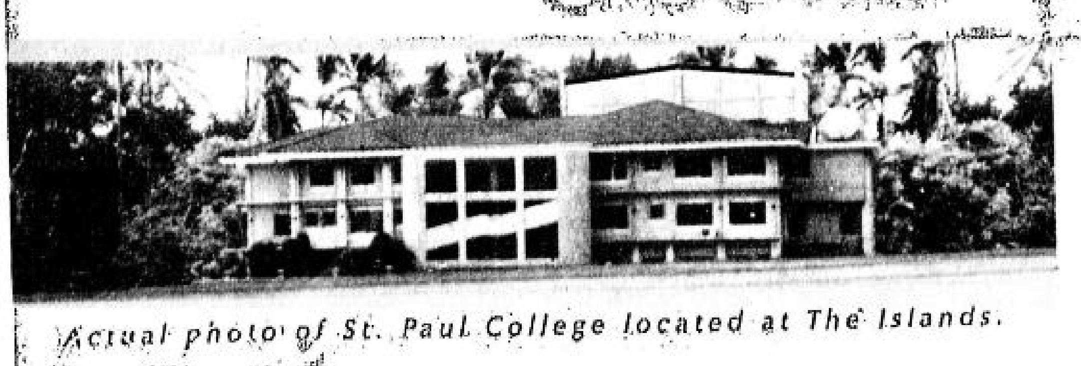
ALL SET FOR A GREAT DAY OUT

CROWN Amalfi

The elegance of an Italian-inspired home and the comfort of a resort-like living. Savor the best of both worlds only here at Amalfi.

873-1614 • 871-3882
873-8412

Crown Asia
Your home of choice



Actual photo of St. Paul College located at The Islands.